Saturday, March 19, 2011 | 44 sections / Vol. 35 / No. 181 / P10 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile diary: Text INQ 2G to 2900 (GLOBE/TM)

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

V FOR VICTORY! Libyans celebrate in the opposition capital and stronghold of Benghazi on Friday after the UN Security Council voted to impose a no-fly zone over Libya. The resolution also authorizes "all necessary measures" to protect civilians from attacks by Gadhafi's forces due at press time were reportedly 130 km from Benghazi. The area civilian rebels now find themselves in danger of being crushed by the despot's overwhelming forces. AP

Gadhafi halts all attacks

Crisis level 5: Burying nuke reactor eyed

TOKYO—Japanese engineers conceded on Friday that burying a crippled nuclear reactor in sand and concrete may be the only way to prevent a catastrophic radiation leak, as Japan raised the Fukushima crisis to level 5, putting it on par with the Three Mile Island accident, the second biggest nuclear disaster in history.

Entombing the stricken Japanese reactors in sand and concrete would replicate the method used to seal huge radiation from Chernobyl in 1986, considered the worst in history.

It was the first time the Japanese nuclear facility operator had acknowledged that burying the sprawling complex was an option, a sign that piecemeal actions, such as dumping water from military helicopters, were having little success.

"It is not impossible to encase the reactors in concrete.

CRISIS, A-17

Survivor: It's my land, I'll rebuild

KESENNUMA, Japan—Less than a week after watching his home get swept away by the tsunami that tore into Japan's northeast coast, Shunsuke Kimagai is ready to reclaim his plot of earth from the ruins.

"It's my land. I've been here all my life," the 83-year-old told AFP as he surveyed the jumble of Kesennuma. "I want to rebuild."

Kimagai was born and raised in the village of Kamahama, one of a series of settlements that made up the sprawling town be-

SURVIVOR, A-17

RESCUE DRILL Members of the Bureau of Fire Protection Special Reaction Unit rappel from the rooftop of the DILG building in Quezon City during a fire and earthquake drill on Friday. A study says Metro Manila is woefully unprepared for a major earthquake that could hit any time, kill tens of thousands of people and flatten nearly half of the homes. EDD GUMBAN

Ceasefire comes after UN vote to launch sea, air strikes vs Libya

UNITED NATIONS—With UN blessings, a coalition of Western nations geared up on Friday to launch quick air strikes on Libya after its leader Moammar Gadhafi vowed in harrowing terms to crush the rebellion against him with "no mercy, no pity."

Hours after the UN Security Council authorized "all necessary measures" to stop Gadhafi—including strikes by sea and air—Libya announced on Friday an immediate ceasefire in the month-long battle against rebels, saying it was complying with UN demands.

"Libya has decided an immediate ceasefire and an immediate halt to all military operations," Foreign Minister Musa Kusa said. He said that Libya, as a UN member, was "obliged to accept the UN Security Council's resolutions."

Earlier, speaking in an interview with Portuguese television broadcast just before the vote at the UN, Gadhafi pledged to respond harshly to UN-sponsored attacks.

"If the world is crazy" he said, "we will be crazy, too." He warned: "We will turn their lives into hell."

A French government spokesperson said the strikes

GADHAFI, A-16

Palace: We found a lot of scams, will file cases when Gutierrez is out

By Norman Bordadora

MANY BUSINESS of corruption during the Arroyo administration have been uncovered and cases against those responsible are quietly being built, according to President Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda.

"We found so much," Lacierda said of the purported instances of corruption.

But the reported criminal and administrative charges will apparently not be filed in the Office of the Ombudsman as long as its head, Merceditas

PALACE, A-16

Cyber scams target donations for Japan

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IN THE WAKE of devastation and misery come the fraudsters and scam artists.

It's all very sad to react to be generous but exercise some discernment or you could end up losing your money to cybercriminals or

CYBER SCAMS, A-16

DFA chief flies to Tokyo, sends team to Bahrain for Pinoys' safety

By DJ Yap

FOREIGN SECRETARY Alberto del Rosario quickly flew in Tokyo yesterday to lead Philippine efforts to rescue and evacuate Filipinos in the quake- and tsunami-ravaged parts of northeastern Japan.

He landed at Narita International Airport at 12:50 p.m. and was welcomed by Ambassador Manuel Lopez, according to Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Eduardo Malaya.

Del Rosario will lead a "compact" DFA team composed of Foreign Undersecretaries Rafael Seguis and Jose Brillantes and Asian and Pacific Affairs Executive Director Meynard Montesclaros.

The DFA said the foreign secretary met with officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy "to assess the situation on the ground and revalidate the contingency plan in connection with the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami."

Malaya said Del Rosario had wanted to

DFA CHIEF, A-16

Hotlines of DFA, Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, in Manama, Bahrain / A5

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Banco Filipino deposits safe, says PDIC

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Banco deposits safe–PDIC

By Ma. Isolis V. Bueza

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) has assured depositors of Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank (BF), which was placed under receivership on Thursday, that resources are sufficient to meet depositors' claims and that the processing of these will be done expeditiously.

The PDIC will pay insurance on all valid deposit accounts as soon as possible, PDIC executive vice president Cristina Ortuoste told a press conference yesterday.

Based on initial data from BF, Ortuoste said 97 percent of deposit accounts are fully insured since these accounts are P500,000 and less.

Under the PDIC charter, all deposits worth P500,000 and below are insured by the state deposit insurer.

Ortuoste said the insured deposit accounts at BF are worth P9.4 billion, which "we can very well pay."

She noted that the PDIC's deposit insurance fund (DIF), which is the pool of money from which it reimburses payments for deposit claims, currently stands at P64.6 billion.

The DIF is at a comfortable level and will remain so even if the P9.4 billion BF insured deposits are fully paid, she said.

Deposits in excess of P500,000 may or may not be paid, depending on the amount of assets that BF has. With the PDIC's takeover of BF, the deposit insurer assumes all of the bank's liabilities and assets.

Others said the PDIC will study any rehabilitation proposal from parties who may want to apply to be the new owners of the bank, if a proposal is deemed viable, then the PDIC may decide to rehabilitate the bank, she said.

But if there should be no viable rehabilitation proposal, BF's assets will be sold.

Proceeds of such a sale will be used to pay those parties that have claims against the bank, which, in order of priority, include creditors, employees and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Claimants of deposits in excess of P500,000 are not prioritized for payment.

Claims with deposits of P5,000 and below no longer need to file deposit insurance claims, said Ortuoste. These small deposits are automatically considered settled. In fact, the PDIC will deliver their checks to them via postal money order.

The checks may be encashed at any of the over 1,600 post offices and state that 200 branches of the semi-owned Land Bank of the Philippines.

Others said the PDIC has already taken over the BF's branches and was now set to start validating the deposit accounts.

She said PDIC will be conducting a series of forums for depositors sometime next week.

"During the forums, we will explain procedures and requirements for filing claims and answer depositors' queries," she said.

Ortuoste said the BF case wouldn't set dampen confidence in the country's banking sector.

One of the reasons the PDIC ensures the speedy settlement of valid deposit insurance claims is to keep people trusting the banking system, she said.

"PDIC is at the forefront of efforts to ensure financial stability. This DIF issue will not significantly impact on the public's confidence on the banking system, which is why we're announcing this particular event," she said.

BF was placed under PDIC receivership by the Monetary Board after it declared a bank holiday and did not entertain withdrawals from depositors for three days.

The BSP said the financial condition of BF necessitated its being placed under receivership.

Church prays for miracle for doomed Pinoys in China

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Villamor Visaya Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

CATBALOGAN: Church leaders yesterday said they continued to hope for a miracle that would save the three Filipinos facing the death penalty in China.

"Let's continue to pray, something good may still happen," Calbayog Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez told reporters yesterday.

Iñiguez said his men would continue to work on appeals to have the death sentence of Sanson Cruzin, Sally Villanueva and Elizabeth Batain commuted to life imprisonment once not limited by the Chinese government.

"It is indeed a very sad news ... we could only pray for these countrymen of ours and others united out the death sentence," said Illanda Bishop Precious Castillon, also chair of the Catholic Bishops' Episcopal Commission for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.

"We pray also for generosity from that will endure capital punishment that they may value life more now after things and to provide all the chance for human rehabilitation," added Castillon.

Despite the bleak outlook for the three Filipinos facing execution, President Aquino must continue to make an appeal to Chinese officials, and Rodolfo Limauro, executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission on Prison and Pastoral Care.

"While it is true that [Cruz's] law has to be respected, but there is also such thing as the law of humanity for humane reasons," said Limauro. "Maybe out of goodwill, they will be given another chance."

In Silay, Isabela, the family of Villanueva, though appreciously wrapped in her execution, nevertheless were still "hoping against hope" that Mr. Aquino would again send an emissary like Vice President Jejomar Binay to again negotiate another delay.

Villanueva's brother, Jayson Deldoncio, said the lawyer yesterday that the family was discussing ways to fly to China.

Ordinario said the family's original plan to meet fully in China, did not push through. They now intend to pursue the plan, provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs to "shoulder the expenses as they promised."

Hubert sues Jessica Alfaro 'for lying'

LILIBOY Webb yesterday filed a complaint of perjury against Jessica Alfaro, the star witness in the celebrated "Vizconde massacre case, before the Parañaque Prosecutor's Office.

"She lied," Webb said referring to Alfaro. "I didn't."

Webb, who was recently acquitted by the Supreme Court after spending 15 years in prison following his conviction, also sought P30 million in civil damages, representing the lost earnings while being incarcerated.

"He wants to show the people that what the (Alfaro) did was wrong," he said. "I don't want another person to go through what I experienced. I would pay him," he told reporters at the Parañaque City prosecutor's office.

A lower court judge had convicted Webb and six others based mostly on the testimony of Alfaro, who the Supreme Court ruled in its review of the conviction was not a reliable witness.

Webb was accompanied by his lawyer Zenaida Delgado-Acosta.

"She has not shown any remorse," he told reporters, referring to Alfaro. "She should not be allowed to go scot-free."

Acosta cited several inconsistencies in which Alfaro allegedly lied under oath when she testified against Webb.

"The most glaring lie actually was she said that she saw Hubert rape Carmela when the truth is that she answered an affidavit in April 1995 stating that she did not enter the Vizconde residence and therefore [she] could not have been an eyewitness," Acosta said. Mike Morales

Families take up fight vs RH bill

PICKING UP where the embattled Church leaders left off, a nationwide organization calling itself Families Against the RH Bill is launching the offensive in the lobby against proposed legislation on government-funded distribution of contraceptives.

The group is holding a simultaneous rallies campaign in various parts of Metro Manila, Batanes, Pampanga, Baguio, Bacolod, Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro City today. Other rallies and activities will be done on April 2 and April 16.

Aside from the group's main message, "No to RH Bill," another slogan is like "The PH Kills." "If you are not afraid, then you are not aware," "It's easy to be pro-choice when you're not the one being killed," will be chanted in strategic venues.

TV personality and former national athlete Christine Jacob-Sandejas, one of the convenors of Families Against the RH Bill, said initial funding for the rallies was contributed by the members. To sustain the campaign, the organization will ask recognition for donations of P5 per student. The member-families will bring along their children in affixing stickers to nonstores in various parts of the country.

Bahrain assures Pinoys' safety

By DJ Yap

THE INSIDE accusers of Bahrain has assured the Philippines and four other nations with a significant number of nationals working in the Arab country of the safety of their citizens in spite of heightened tensions there.

Bahrain Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa made the promise to Philippine Ambassador Corazon Dop Balajin and to the envoys of India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Thailand in a meeting on Thursday, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

In a report to the DFA, Balajin said the prime minister assured them that the "Bahraini government respects the rights of all foreigners and will protect them from anyone who will inflict harm."

He also added that Bahrain invited foreigners to work in their country and appreciates their contribution," Balajin said.

So far, no Filipino deaths or injuries have been reported since the start of the tensions in Bahrain.

No of this time, the embassy team has not received any report of Filipinos injured or dead due to the crackdown on protesters in the Pearl Roundabout," the ambassador said in a statement. She added that security forces were not singling out foreigners.

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4 more Pinoy fatalities in NZ quake identified

By Xinnie Borgoa Jr. and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—Four more Filipino fatalities in the Christchurch earthquake that rocked Queenstown in New Zealand last month have been identified.

New Zealand authorities identified the four as Emmabelle Amelo, 28, and Jovie Ann Ellen Chua Sesbreno of Cebu, and Hilary Louise Amantillo and Virginia Brunette of Iloilo.

The parents of Emmabelle — Magdalena town, Cebu, were informed by their elder daughter in Hida Tourist that Emmabelle's body was identified through her ring and DNA result.

Arthur Chua, father of John Kristofer Chua, said his son's body was identified through his watch, wedding ring and dental records.

Chua hailed from Barangay Guiwanon in Lapu-Lapu City.

On Friday, the New Zealand police identified the remains of Filipino nurse Mary Louise Anne Amantillo, 23, of Balasan town in Iloilo.

Their names appeared on the list of confirmed dead released by the Christchurch Media Liaison Team and posted on the New Zealand police website (http://www.police.govt.nz/news/release/27111.html).

Bernacte, Amantillo's close friend and college classmate, was identified last Sunday.

The New Zealand authorities earlier identified the body of Rhea Mae Bautigan, a nurse from Cebu.

Dra. Ariel Ty said the parents of Rhea Mae flew to New Zealand on Thursday morning from Australia to ensure that Rhea Mae's body would be identified and brought to Tacloban, Negros City, Cebu, for proper burial.

Meanwhile, the Department of Foreign Affairs will fund the repatriation of the remains of Leilani Gillako Apatay, another Filipino who perished in the quake, critically.

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Palace: We found a lot of scams, will file cases

From page A1

statement, remained last post.

Gutierrez, an ally and appointee of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is fighting off impeachment by the House of Representatives. The case against her is up for plenary voting on Monday.

"Investigation is ongoing in the different Cabinet departments so let the final issue that we discovered," Lacierda told reporters after, coincidentally, Gutierrez and Ombudsman is no longer there, we'll file the cases."

Lacierda said Gutierrez, the communications development and strategic planning secretary said the Aquino administration believed that the squeezed graft cases involving huge amounts of public funds would amount to nothing if those left under Gutierrez's jurisdiction for further investigations and prosecution.

"The reason we're not filing it (the cases) is they will end up with fine ... and will be delisted," Lacierda said.

"Either the cases will [wind up in] acquittal or ... they will be out on," Lacierda added.

Garcia's plea bargain

One of the cases currently in the public consciousness is the plea bargain between former military comptroller Carlos Garcia and the Office of the Ombudsman.

Garcia was charged with plunder in relation to P303 million in value Freedom Against Fear fund rolled up "irregularities" over. But the special prosecutor under Gutierrez's office pronounced the case weak and entered into the plea bargain under which Garcia pleaded guilty to lesser offenses and was set free on bail of P960,000.

RICKY CARANDANG

EDWIN LACIERDA

MANUEL QUEZON III

ABIGAIL VALTE

During the first 100 days of the Aquino administration, such questionable contracts as those involving the P18-billion dredging of Laguna de Lake and the overpriced purchase of equipment for the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, as well as the exorbitant compensation of executives of government-operated and controlled corporations, were brought to light.

There was also the narrative importance of the fact that Mr. Aquino had ordered the National Bureau Authority to investigate. (See list of other cases on this page).

During the 25th anniversary celebration of the 1986 Edsa revolution, noted President Joseph Estrada called on Mr. Aquino to initiate corruption charges against Arroyo, who, along with her husband, was implicated in the controversial National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp.

The Aquino administration had vowed to continue to look into the controversies and scandals that tainted the administration of Arroyo, now a representative of Pampanga's second district.

But the Supreme Court found the creation of the commission unconstitutional. The case remains on appeal in the high court.

Lacierda said Gutierrez and Valte then were put to be revealed irregularities in the Department of Public Works and Highways and in the Department of Transportation and Communications.

No choice

Gutierrez said cases that involved massive and an admission paper trail. "Those are easier for investigators and prove in court," he said.

Lacierda said the Office of the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice had controversies "that would take Aquino to court against government officials.

"But the Ombudsman has primary jurisdiction. If we file it in the DOJ, the Ombudsman will question it and say, 'I have primary jurisdiction,'" he said.

Valte said she hoped the administration do if it so dispatched Gutierrez were eventually acquitted by the Senate impeachment court.

Carandang said the administration's thought have to wait until 2012, when Gutierrez's term expires, to file criminal and administrative charges against corrupt officials of the previous term.

"I think we will have no choice," Carandang said. "Our witnesses' memory of some issues will be gone and her retirement gathering evidence."

IN THE KNOW

P11.81 Rank of the Nation Aid drive last July, President Aquino said the president of Pangasinan received P9.08 million in 2004. Of this, P101 million went to only one district.

On the other hand, the province of Pangasinan, which was severely affected by Typhoon Pepeng," received a mere 9% billion, which had to be used to repair the damage inflicted by the earlier Typhoon "Ondoy."

The funds were released in the election month of May, which Lopez wrote months after the typhoon, he said.

The President also said executives of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System had received excessive additional allowances and benefits, amounting to P81.1 million, making the average number receive the equivalent of over 38 months' pay.

He mentioned the "shocking" benefits of the MWSS board of trustees, such as about P2.5 million paid to a year exclusive of car service, cellphone allowance, and loans—all three given while the agency was in arrears on the payment of retired employees.

The President likewise said that few days before the end of the Arroyo administration, it ordered the release of funds for 19 projects for the rehabilitation of those affected by Sepeng and Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

He said that the funds amounted to P981 million, that there was no public bidding, and that the contracts were already signed although the Special Allotment Release Order had yet to be released.

On Jan. 19, 20, Aquino said just one person or group appears to have earned a relatively half billion the Arroyo administration, bribed to make the inspection to come from only one bank, and were in connivance order.

Rumors said the logic overpriice and excessive negotiation of six parabolic MS dolls up to P177 billion. Inquirer Research

Cyber scams target donations for Japan

From page A1

your computer to a crippling virus instead of helping the suffering Japanese.

Following the powerful earthquake and tsunami that triggered a worsening nuclear crisis in Japan's northeastern coast, a number of websites posing as legitimate charity sites have popped up, soliciting donations from gullible Internet users, according to experts from the antivirus firm, TrendMicro.

These websites are using the name of international organizations like the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the Red Cross to urge people to deposit money into specific bank accounts or send donations through online payment methods like PayPal, said Kyle Flaw, director of TrendMicro's cybercrime technology marketing.

"(But) the money does not reach these charities and instead ends up in the pockets of scammers," warned Flaw.

Dangerous websites could make the unwary vulnerable to identity theft as they also ask for credit card and personal information, she added.

Dubious appeals

Unicef Korea cited a dubious appeal supposedly by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, circulating via e-mail, urging corporate organizations, nongovernmental agencies, government officials, celebrities and other individuals to donate at least a dollar.

"Your one cent or one dollar counts at this critical time for the children and citizens of Japan and whatever support you rendered will be transferred by food," according to the e-mail, a copy of which was sent to the Inquirer yesterday.

The issue e-mail asked for interested donors to include their full name, phone number and e-mail address.

It also said that once donors have met the needed information, the agency would supposedly contact them for instructions as to how they can make the donation through Paypal and Western Union.

Fake links and viruses

Aside from being wary of fraudulent charity websites, Internet users are also advised to be careful when clicking on Japan disaster-related links on the web-based search engine Google, video-sharing website YouTube and the hugely popular social networking site Facebook.

"You may unknowingly download fake programs and viruses onto your computer or worse lose your money or mobile phone load to scammers posing as donation sites for the Japan earthquake disaster," cautioned Flaw.

The antivirus company showed various suspicious links of videos of the ferocious tsunami that wiped out communities, roads, agricultural lands and killed thousands of people on March 11.

But these Internet links could plant fake antivirus programs in your computer or allow scammers to survive on free Facebook accounts with "spam messages," said Flaw.

"Fake fake sites can also ask you for your mobile phone numbers which they then sign up for 'premium' services like ringtones and subscriptions that eat up your load," she said.

Go direct

She advised Internet users who would like to donate to the victims in Japan to go directly to recognized charities for information.

"Get information directly from the charity, don't depend solely on emails given to you by text or e-mail and do not pass unconfirmed text or Twitter messages but instead go direct to official news websites," Flaw said.

Japan assures PH aid will continue

By Jerry E. Esplanada

DESPITE the "tremendous challenges" facing Japan following the killer quake and tsunami that devastated it last week, the Japanese government said it would continue to support its development projects in the Philippines.

"The government of Japan remains committed to supporting the nation-building efforts of the Philippine government," the Japanese Embassy in Pasay City said yesterday.

In an e-mail, embassy press officer Reiko Hirai told the Inquirer that Japan would "continue its policy to attach importance to cooperate in the social and economic development of the Philippines."

Hirai said Japan's government and people, with the help of the international community, are engaged in "all-out efforts for search and rescue, as well as reconstructing various lifelines, in the region affected" by the 9-magnitude quake.

"Japan, as an entire nation, is tackling tremendous challenges with all the resources available to overcome this unprecedented tragedy," Hirai said.

Shinzo Dabou, Japan will continue to support the Philippines. As "strategic partner," he said.

Top donor

Japan has been the Philippines' top donor of multi-lateral aid, or official development assistance (ODA), in the form of loans, grants and soft loans amounting to more than P800 billion.

The Philippines ranks as the fourth largest [ODA] recipient, next to Indonesia, China and India, of the country's liberality until in its website.

In the first three quarters of 2010 alone, Japan provided over P40 billion in ODA to the Philippines. Among the projects funded involved climate change and disaster mitigation-related initiatives, P1.27 billion; health, P575 million; education, P585 million; agriculture, P364 million; energy, P908 million; and peace process, P140 million.

These projects arose in "Japan's continued commitment to support the Philippine government under the new leadership of President Aquino," said Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Makoto Katsura.

Condolences for donations

The Japanese Embassy yesterday also thanked the Philippine government and people for their "heartfelt messages of condolences and sympathies" as well as the various offers of help to the quake and tsunami victims.

"Relief needs in the affected areas in northeastern Japan[] are being assessed and relevant coordination is being made" by Japan and the Philippines, Hirai said.

Send donations to...

He said persons and groups wishing to extend assistance may send donations directly to the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) account at the Bank of Tokyo, Trust of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp., account number 4004700 for cash or check donations intended for quake and tsunami victims, and account number 4002700 for JRCS nurse-and-relief efforts.

Donations may also be sent to the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) headquarters at Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, or deposited in PRC accounts at Allied Bank-Intramuros, Sun on the Dit-Nat Area, Bank of Philippine Islands-Ayala Area, Metrobank-Ayala Circle and Philippine National Bank-Ayala Ctar.

DFA chief flies to Tokyo, sends team to Bahrain

From page A1

keep the city "under wraps" until the news well on its way.

"Perhaps he did not want certain people to be informed about his safety, particularly Mrs. Jol Rosario and his personal physician," Makoya said.

Jol Rosario made a similar surprise trip to Libya and Tunisia at the height of the Libyan crisis last month.

No fresh info

The Philippine Embassy in Tokyo said at least 48 Filipinos in Japan had not been heard from since the quake and tsunami hit on March 11.

But the DFA said it still had no official listing of missing Filipinos in the quake- and tsunami-ravaged areas. Neither could it pronounce which evacuees still Filipinos affected by the disaster, only the number of Filipinos in "prefectures" (the Japanese equivalent of provinces).

No Filipino deaths or injury as a result of the quake and tsunami has been confirmed.

The DFA said the list of names updated periodically as the embassy website was just a "people finder" will, meaning names provided by "concerned individuals and organizations through e-mail, the people finder online, and help lines put in place by the OFA."

As of late Thursday night, 46 names were on the list, most of which had addresses in areas hardest hit by the quake and tsunami: 17 in Miyagi prefecture (two are Filipinas), 16 in Iwate and Fukushima prefecture, 8 from Ibaraki prefecture, 4 from Chiba prefecture, one from Aomori prefecture, and 1 from Ibaraki prefecture. There were also 1 from Tokyo.

Call or e-mail

In a note, the embassy said: "Hay are request the following individuals to contact the embassy as soon as possible. May are also request those who may have information on these individuals to let the embassy know of their situation."

The embassy's 24-hour hotline numbers in Japan are 03(5562-1576, 03(5562-1577 and 03(5562-1578. The e-mail address is: cinsajapan@philembassy.net.

The embassy also listed on its website the names of 501 Filipinos in wards had rescued. There were 43 from Fukushima and Sendai, area hit by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. Also from Fukushima: Hotel Intercharge, 23; from Fukushima Kenchoo and 13 Daiichi Kyojuto.

There are the Filipinos evacuated from the disaster areas and taken to Tokyo by the embassy teams on board buses.

Sugata earlier said there were some 1,500 Filipinos living in the four prefectures struck hardest by the calamity—1,309 in Miyagi, 2,366 in Fukushima, 906 in Iwate and 554 in Aomori.

Jun Malaya said the DFA had no record of the number of Filipinos living in specific cities within those prefectures, let alone smaller locations such as the immediate vicinity of the Fukushima nuclear plants.

2 teams deployed

Secretary Del Rosario deployed two teams yesterday to help embassy personnel assisting Filipinos in Japan and Bahrain, two countries having two different types of crisis.

The first team, composed of Ambassador and Mrs. Rodolfo Estabillo and Filipinas Ambassador, flew to Japan to help assess the situation on the ground and to validate and make efficient contingency plans.

A second team, composed of Ricardo Endaya and Erlinda Basilio, executive director and principal assistant, respectively, of the DFA Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA), flew to Bahrain with the same purpose.

The teams will assist the embassies in intensifying the existing efforts in place to ensure the safety and serve the needs of the Filipinos there," the DFA said in a statement.

The embassy's consular offices in Tokyo, as well as consulates in Osaka, Sapporo, Morioka, Nagoya and Naha, continued to reach out to Filipino communities members and respond to requests for assistance or information 24/7.

In phone conversations with Del Rosario, Ambassador Manuel Lopez said he and his staff have "fully committed to remain in Tokyo to serve the needs of Filipinos in Japan."

Hotlines

In Manila, the DFA has activated its Crisis Management Center for families who have relatives in Japan. The hotline numbers at the center are 834-4648 and 834-4580.

Requests for information may also be sent through e-mail address: dfacrisiscenter@gmail.com.

In Japan, Filipinos may contact the following emergency numbers in cases of emergency: 03(5562-1573, 03(5562-1574, 03(5562-1575, 03(5562-1576, 03(5562-1577.

The consulates' hotlines are: (06) 6908-7401 in Osaka, (011) 634-8098 in Sapporo, and (098) 929-9189 in Shiraoka.

The DFA said the Philippine Embassy in Bahrain was now help operating 24/7 to address the concerns of Filipino there. "Embassy officers and staff have disseminated their mobile numbers to (Filipinos) for immediate information and assistance," the DFA said.

The hotline numbers at the Philippine Embassy in Manama, Bahrain, are: (973) 17721554, (973) 17360951 and (973) 17721908.

Palace certifies as urgent bill seeking to postpone ARMM polls

By Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Aquino has certified as urgent the bill seeking to postpone the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, said Del Mahar expects lawmakers to pass the law next week, even with just three session days left before Congress takes recess on March 25.

He said Mr. Aquino certified the bill last March 14 and it was sent right away to House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte.

"Remember, this is a time-bound legislation. This is meant to postpone the elections in August," Lacierda said.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said the administration's allies in Congress are aware of the importance of the postponement of the elections.

In the same news briefing, governors of the four out of five ARMM provinces expressed their support for the postponement of the ARMM elections.

Sulu's Abdusakur Tan, Tawi-Tawi's Sadikul Sahali, Maguindanao's Esmael Mangudadatu and Basilan's Jum Akbar signed the manifesto in Malacañang yesterday.

The governors said they were witnesses to the "keen perseverance" of the ARMM units to speed up their obligations and responsibilities to their constituents, and to deliver to address perennial problems relating to the development and welfare of its constituent provinces.

Lanao del Sur Gov. Mamintal Adiong, Jr. and Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu and Basilan's Jum Akbar signed the manifesto in support of the postponement.

The Aquino administration wants to postpone the ARMM elections ostensibly to allow it to put in place reforms before elections are held preferably in the next national elections in 2013. The bill also provides for the appointment of an officer in charge during the interim.

Opponents of the postponement, on the other hand, want the elections to push through, insisting the regions lose their second the autonomous region and the constitutional laws.

Despite suffering a setback last week because it failed to form a quorum, the House majority remains confident that it can pass the bill next week, according to Bicol's Albay Rep. Rudy Fariñas, who is one of the most vocal advocates for synchronizing the ARMM polls with the 2013 national elections.

"We will mobilize the nonparticipants. I hope we will pass it," said Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga, chair of the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms. Barzaga had expected the bill to pass last Wednesday until the session had to be adjourned because there were not enough representatives in the session hall.

Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez denounced the majority's alleged dictatorial tendencies when it closed the period of interpellation where representatives were supposed to ask their views or questions on the bill before voting on it.

But opponents reject an uphill battle before the bill can be ensured as it still has to pass the Senate—where the ruling Liberal Party is outnumbered by almost six to one—and obtain support from the Supreme Court.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

MARCH 19 (Saturday)
Psalter: Proper
Joseph, Husband of Mary
Ps 89:2-5, 6-7, 27, 29

The seed of David will live for ever.

1st Reading: 2 S 7:4-5, 12-14, 16

But that very night, Yahweh's word came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, this is what Yahweh says: Are you able to build a house for me to live in?

When the time comes for you to rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your son after you, the one born of you, and I will make his reign secure. He shall build a house for my name and I will firmly establish his kingship forever. I will be a father to him and he shall be my son. If he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod, as men do. But mine and your reign shall last forever before me, and your throne shall be forever firm."

2nd Reading: Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Brothers and sisters, If God promised Abraham, or rather his descendants, that the world would belong to him, this was not because he kept the Law, but because he was just and it kept God through faith.

— Abraham is the father of all of us, as it is written: I will make you father of many nations. He is our father before eyes of him who gave life to the dead, and calls into existence what does not yet exist, for this is the kind in whom he believed. Abraham believed and hoped against all hope; hence, thus becoming father of many nations, as he had been told, 'So many must will be your descendants.' This was taken into account by him to obtain righteousness.

Gospel: Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a [or LK 2:41-51]

— This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her. While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him Jesus [or he will save his people from their sins]' When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do and he took his wife to his home.

Reflection:

The liturgy today remembers a great man, Saint Joseph. He was the exemplar. He drew us how we can be faithful and righteous, by service to God first and foremost. And he believe the greatest reward that God gave him, in spite of not understanding completely all the circumstances around him. He took Mary his wife to his home.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Log haul shows illegal logging

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Anti-illegal logging enforcers in Quirino have a lot of explaining to do after agents of the National Bureau of Investigation blocked a truck loaded with illegally cut lumber on Tuesday.

Lawyer Florencio Cunlas, chief of the NBI district office here, said the hot lumber, consisting of about 9,000 board feet of red lauan (Shorea negrosensis) and loaded in a six-wheel truck, came from Diadila town and was supposed to be delivered in Cabarroguis City.

"This will be our first undermaker Executive Order No.1 23," Cunlas said, referring to the executive order issued by President Aquino which declared a nationwide ban on the cutting and harvesting of lumber.

The agents arrested the truck driver, Dingdong Bonalpa, and his helper, Rolly Perry, after they failed to present permits when they were flagged down at the barangay checkpoint in Barangay Busilid Proper here at around 2 a.m. Tuesday.

Cunlas said the van-shaped truck P350,000 worth of lumber without a single shipping document. A check with the Land Transportation Office here also showed that the truck bore a fake license plate.

"[The suspects] changed the license plate [before it reached Bayombong] hoping to mislead our agents."

"Fortunately, our team had other ways of determining that the truck was their target," Cunlas said.

NBI sources said the illegally harvested lumber were sourced from as far as the forests of Nagtipunan town in Quirino and Dingalan town in Aurora, and consigned to an unnamed owner by a resident in Maddela.

They said they were puzzled how the illegal shipment slipped past at least five checkpoints along the 100-km stretch of road passing through Quirino, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya.

NBI agent Norman Victor Estrellado, in a report, said Bonalpa questioned his arrest, saying the shipment had the approval of government authorities.

"He, then, has been released for shipment," Estrellado said.

Another NBI source said top law enforcement officials have been selling the agents, requesting for the release of the shipment.

Cebu Amrita, Quirino provincial police chief, said checkpoints through several checkpoints without being blocked by government and police personnel.

Acosta said an investigation would be conducted to determine the liability of government personnel tasked with monitoring and stopping shipments of illegally cut lumber in the province.

Senior Supt. Jolbin Mille, Quirino police director, said the illegal shipment may have passed through checkpoints manned by policemen because as a police they do not inspect the contents of vehicles with closed compartments.

"The campaign against illegal logging is the primary duty of the [PNP]," Mille said. Melvin Sarmiento, Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAWYER Florencio Cunlas, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation office in Nueva Vizcaya, shows one of the illegally cut hardwood logs confiscated by NBI agents in Diadila town. | MELVIN SARMIENTO, INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Floods displace 60,000 in Leyte

By Joey Gabieza and Jhunrex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—At least 60,000 people have been displaced by floods in Leyte, forcing the provincial government and the city government of Tacloban to declare a state of calamity.

The declarations would allow local officials to tap the calamity funds and help the flood victims in the towns of Albi, Tanauan, San Miguel, Tolosa, Mayorga, Julita, Alangalang, Carigara, Dagami, Barugo, Matag-ob, Tabontabon, Abuyog and Javier as well as Tacloban City.

Seven towns in Bohol were also affected by the floods that killed three people on Thursday.

Bohol Gov. Edgar Chatto ordered an assessment on damage caused by the floods in the towns of Sierra Bullones, Jagna, Bilar, Garcia Hernandez, Dimiao, Corters and Candijay.

Leyte and parts of Eastern Visayas and Bohol had experienced incessant rains since Wednesday, causing the mud to loosen and the water level to rise.

Classes in all levels in Tacloban and the rest of Leyte were canceled since Thursday due to the inclement weather.

Mayor Alfred Romualdez declared a state of calamity in Tacloban after floods and landslides forced 18,504 families or 53,951 persons to leave their homes.

The floods affected 45 of the 138 barangays in Tacloban.

Landslide

A landslide in Barangay Cabalawan had killed a couple and their five children who were asleep when mud and boulders buried their house about 2 a.m. on Thursday.

At present, 479 families or 2,005 persons from 16 villages have sought temporary shelter in the city gymnasium where food and medical assistance were being provided to them.

Leyte Gov. Jerrilee Petilla placed the entire province in a state of calamity on Thursday afternoon after receiving reports that about 7,000 families from 14 towns were displaced by the floods.

In Javier town, 30 houses were destroyed in the villages of Inanguan and Abuyog when a "small tornado" ripped through the two villages on Wednesday around 7:30 early dawn, town operations officer Joselito Mercado, reached on the phone, said on Friday.

The regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) also reported that a 22-year-old woman, Analyn Espina from Barangay Cabalawanhon, drowned on Wednesday while her family was trying to evacuate their home due to the flooding treshold.

The DSWD-Eastern Visayas office also reported that as of Friday afternoon, 2,452 families comprising of 11,427 individuals coming from the towns of Hinabag, Eastern Samar (234 families and 702 persons); San Jose de Buan, Samar (with 20 families and 100 persons); Pinabacdao, Samar (86 families and 253 persons) and Pambujan, Northern Samar (2,092 families with 11,282 persons), were also displaced by the flooding.

In Bohol, Governor Chatto ordered an assessment of the damage caused by the floods in several towns.

A man identified as Reminio Cuizo, 37, of Barangay Canawi, Clarin, was also drowned after his water level suddenly rose while he was taking a bath in the lake on Thursday morning.

Business group joins opposition to casinos on Boracay

ILOILO CITY—A group of business owners on Boracay Island has joined the opposition to plans of putting up a casino on the popular island resort because of its perceived effects on the image of the island.

Ludolfo Cuan, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), said majority of their organization's board of directors were against the plan to allow casinos on the island.

"We believe that allowing casinos to operate in Boracay will eventually affect the image of the island as a family-oriented and wholesome destination," Cuan told the Inquirer in a telephone interview on Thursday.

The BFI is a group of around 200 operators of resorts, restaurants, hotels and other businesses on the island.

The municipal council of Malay, which has jurisdiction over Boracay, passed a resolution on Jan. 25 endorsing the proposal of Caribe Development Management Corp. (CDMC) to build a casino at the 1.63-hectare Bulabog and Binabaran Beach Golf and Country Club at the northern end of the 1,032-hectare island.

The council said the casino would bring additional revenues to the municipality that could be used to fund social services and infrastructure projects. It said the casino could also attract more tourists to the island resort.

The CDMC said in its application letter that the casino would be regulated and would only be accessible to foreign passport holders. Foreign tourists, Boracay Club members and the resort's guests.

But the Catholic Bishop on the island and other community leaders are opposing the plan on moral grounds, saying the casino can result to increase in gambling which could destroy families and businesses and worsen other social problems, including alcoholism, prostitution and illegal drugs.

Cuan said the BFI had also opposed attempts to put up a casino on the island two years ago.

She said casinos were usually associated with social problems and would attract tourists who would come to the island primarily to gamble.

Plans to put up a casino in Boracay in 2007 and 2008 were shelved due to opposition from the Church and community groups. Nestor B Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

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25 frat members face charges for death of student after hazing

By Nestar B Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—Twenty-five fraternity members, including a couple and three women, are facing criminal charges for the fatal hazing of a criminology student here last year.

The National Bureau of Investigation Western Visayas (NBI-6) office filed the complaint against the respondents before the Office of the City Prosecutor in Iloilo on March 15 for alleged violations of Republic Act No. 8049 (Anti-Hazing Law of 1995) for the death of fraternity neophyte Mernardo Clamor Jr.

Clamor, 18, a second year student, died on July 18, 2010, two days after he and three other recruits were severely beaten during initiation rites of the Aegis Juris fraternity at Barangay Buntatala in Jaro district here.

Clamor, 18, a second year student, died on July 18, 2010, two days after he and three other recruits were severely beaten during initiation rites of the Aegis Juris fraternity at Barangay Buntatala in Jaro district here.

Several unidentified suspects were also named as respondents.

Except for the Medianeros couple, all respondents are students and alumni of the Criminology Department of the University of Iloilo. The IOIE is based at the College of Criminology Department which produces prospective policemen.

The NBI said the respondents "either actively participated, but moral support or acquiesced to the hazing."

In a statement, the NBI said their investigation showed that the victim and his fellow recruits were taken to the house of James Medianeros in Jaro, Iloilo City, around 10 p.m. on June 16, 2010.

Parents

Medianeros's parents, who were also alleged alumni members of the fraternity, welcomed the recruits and the fraternity members and instructed the group to proceed to the back of their house where the initiation rites were done, according to the NBI statement released Thursday by NBI-6 Director Elliva Montero Jr.

During the initiation rites which lasted until past midnight, the victim and the other recruits were allegedly repeatedly hit with a wooden paddle, kicked and punched. They were also subjected to various forms of humiliation, according to the NBI investigation.

The investigating agency said Clamor also developed fever of the beatings.

Several members of the fraternity were also charged with violation of Republic Act No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004) for allegedly maltreating their female recruits.

The NBI said the complaint against the respondents "either actively participated, but moral support or acquiesced to the hazing."

In a statement, the NBI said their investigation showed that the victim and his fellow recruits were taken to the house of James Medianeros in Jaro, Iloilo City, around 10 p.m. on June 16, 2010.

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INQUIRER Visaya

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Assoc. Chief Connie S. Fernandez

Dreams come true for kids in Loboc

By Cris Ewert B. Lato
Inquirer Visayas

LOBOC, Bohol—Nonalyn Alcoba is only 19 years old but she has been to three cities in mainland China several times.

This is because Alcoba belongs to the Loboc Youth Ambassadors Band who have impressed top Chinese officials and dignitaries with how well they make music by playing various instruments.

Alcoba, the 11th of 13 siblings, plays the tenor saxophone—a skill she learned when she joined the band in 2007.

Her involvement in the band earned her a scholarship at the University of Bohol, where she is taking up a course in computer engineering.

"Life is full of surprises. It was a big surprise for me that I was able to visit Shanghai, Nanjing and Hangzhou. I never thought I would travel," she said.

When the Loboc Youth Ambassadors Inc. (LYA), put up the band in May 2007, it provided not only the basics but the main goal was to help reduce poverty in Loboc.

"The objective is to support those kids to send themselves to the college education by becoming musicians," said Melissa Alcoba, mother of the drummer and the tuba player.

Public and private entities joined hands in putting up the band. These include the Loboc municipal government led by Mayor Leon Calipusin, provincial government, Philippine Australia Community Assistance Program, First Consolidated Bank and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

MEMBERS of the Loboc Youth Ambassadors Band hold regular practices every weekend. Daily practices start on summer vacation. Training sessions more rigorous when they prepare for presentations and performances here and abroad. CHONA NOVARRO

The call for interested youth from Grade 3 to 4th year high school to join the band was announced in May 2007.

"There were only two main criteria in joining the project—interest of the children and moral support of the parents," said Melissa.

About 500 youth, mostly from low-income families, responded. Only twenty-seven were finally chosen in series of auditioning and interviewing.

The members were narrowed down to 209 (101 girls and 118 boys) after rigorous training on workshops and daily practices during summer.

The workshops were provided with musical instrument such as clarinet, trumpet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trombone, baritone/tuba tuba, flutes, xylophones, guitar, drum sets, keyboard, French horn and cymbals.

A strong believer of education as the greatest equalizer, the association negotiated with various schools and universities in Bohol for the band members to be admitted as scholars.

They first played before a local audience, among them their parents, in front their workstations. They didn't disappoint as they received praises for their performances.

The group played twice in Metro Manila and was later invited to play during the Shanghai International Children's Crystal Contest on the invitation of the People's Government of Xuhui District and the Philippine Young Ching Ling Foundation in October 2009.

In September 2009, the group was invited by the Philippine Consulate General to play for the Shanghai Tourism Festival. The band went back to Shanghai to pose at the World Expo last June 2010.

Bill's more than 300 youth ready to show their talents to the world, no fear can stop the band from conquering the world.

"When I joined the band, I learned the value of time and friendship and experience of adventure. It is not the money that makes everybody happy and laugh but the sure success we share to everyone," said Melissa Mora, who will soon bet on piano to any degree if she succeeds.

Mora hopes to find a stable job after graduating in college. But she says she would continue playing for the band.

Her sister, who plays alto saxophone, is a third year nursing student at the University of Bohol.

Melissa also said LYA sees to it that even Loboc School of Musics make it capable of providing opportunities for the youths to have a brighter future and to promote Boholano culture through music.

The Loboc School of Music is run by its training director Susanna "Tessy Boots" Ballon, who is assisted by four band musicians.

At present, the band performs on 8-10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays at the Loboc Children's Theater. Their performances usually cope the night away.

Melissa said 115 band members are full college scholars at the Bohol Island State University, BEU International College, Holy Name University and University of Bohol. These students are members of their respective school's bands.

In June 2011, LYA is set to award the scholarship of 46 high school graduates in the deliberate college in Bohol.

For Alcoba, her involvement with the band made her confident and bring open-minded towards conversation and criticism.

"In joining the band, I met kind-hearted individuals willing to sacrifice their talents and time to help others. This, I learn, from the example of people like Tessy Boots," she shared.

Waiter rewarded for saving construction worker

LIO

By Cris Ewert B. Lato
Lapu-Lapu City

THERE was nothing extraordinary that Friday morning in October 2010.

Clyde Ian Lio, 27, was on his way to work when he saw a construction worker lifting the electrical wiring of a lamppost in Barangay Pusok, Lapu-Lapu City.

To his shock, the construction worker was left.

At first, he thought of continuing driving his motorcycle to Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa to be could make it to his 10 a.m. shift. He is a waiter at the Shangri-La for five years.

But he turned back to help and save the man's life.

"I assumed that the Red Cross nurses willing to, whether you like it or not, you have to help people in need," the 1 were back," said Lio.

Lio's story was featured in Shangri-La Moments, an in-house people of Shangri-La properties which features inspiring stories and positive developments.

He was also awarded the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty award having service from other Shangri-La hotels and resorts worldwide. General Manager Jonathan Schaefer received the award in behalf of Lio in Guangzhou, China.

"He is an inspiration to us all and that personal achievement of his has increased awareness and appreciation of our hotel staff on our life and safety training programs. He has been an exemplary steward of what he has learned and we are truly proud that he is a member of our family," said human resources director Sheila Segubiense.

The Shangri-La Mactan management is looking for the more whom Lio saved in October 2010 to check how he was.

Lio is married to Aimee, a fellow Shangri-La Mactan employee and they have a daughter, one-year-old Dominique.

He grew up in a community with drug addicts and drunkards as neighbors. He never met his mother and knew only his father when he was in primary.

He experienced doing all sorts of menial jobs to bring food on the table. He worked in fastfood chains to finance his high school education. He graduated with Bachelor in Information Technology at the University of Cebu.

But he stopped due to financial constraints and applied for work in several hotels and resorts in Cebu.

He started working in Shangri-La in 2006 as a service associate, a entry level food service assigned at Asian Bistro Restaurant.

During that Friday morning of Oct. 15, Lio left home at 8 a.m., driving his motorbike to work.

He saw a man working on a lamppost. He was two meters away from the lamppost when he saw the construction worker fell.

His initial reaction was to leave especially that several people began approaching the unconscious man.

But he turned back.

"I told the people that I was trained by Red Cross and I can help. I told myself not to panic but God knows how nervous I was," he told the Inquirer.

Recalling his one-week training with Red Cross that he took with 30 other employees in August 2010, Lio immediately took control and asked one of the onlookers to call an ambulance. A woman heeded his request.

Then came the need to perform cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

"No time to say 'Sir!' I am kissing someone," he said.

He performed five CPR cycles. Lio was not keen on giving up on the man. He kept checking the man's pulse. On the fourth cycle, the man moved.

About the same time, paramedics from the Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation arrived. The doctor assured Lio that the man was alive and would be taken to the hospital.

Did it even occur to him that the man might die in his hands? "Yes and it was so scared. I was praying to God that he live. Like me, the man probably has a wife and children."

The previous life lessons he learned from the experience? "Full presence of mind. Don't panic, be tough during tough times and remember to apply what you learned," he said.

PEOPLE

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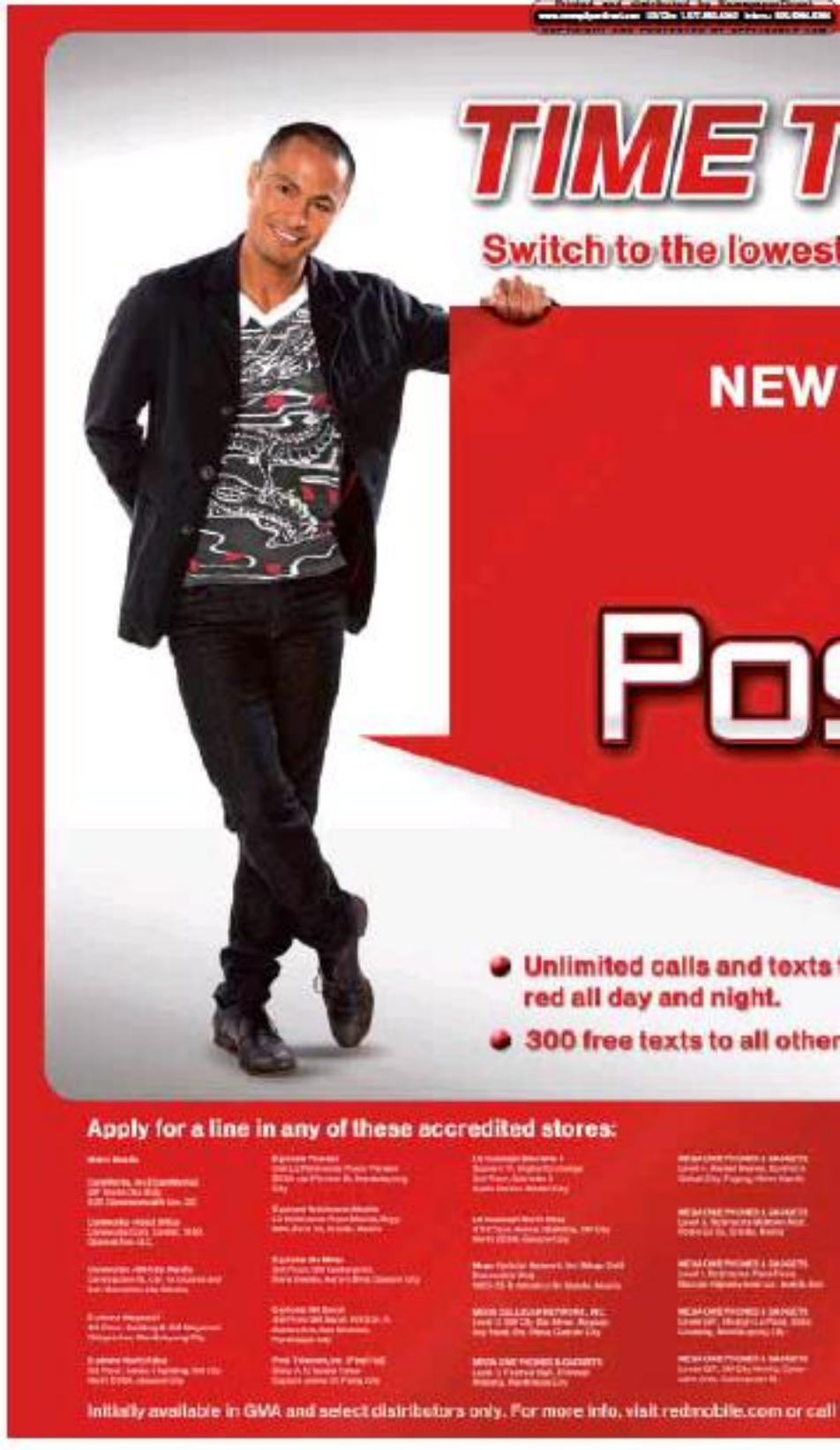
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INQUIRER

OPINION

Our turn to help

EDITORIAL

ABOUT A week later and the catastrophe is still unfolding, each horror compounded by a new one. The rumbles and tsunami that leveled large swaths of Japan, terrible enough as they were, were only the beginning of that country's agony. Now, one of the world's richest, most technologically advanced nations is suddenly prominent on its knees, dazed and overwhelmed by the seemingly unending chain of disasters that have come in the wake of that natural calamity.

Its damaged nuclear reactors are threatening to spew harmful radiation not only on Japan's cities, but on the rest of the world, wherever winds might carry the radioactive plumes. Millions of Japanese, just days ago enjoying the comforts of a singularly affluent, well-organized society, are now bereft of food, power and water, on top of many of them having lost loved ones to the tsunami. Freezing weather has also hampered rescue and rehabilitation efforts, aggravating the misery of survivors.

As the scale of the damage sank in, it became clear this was a tragedy Japan hadn't seen since the dark days of World War II, when it endured its own share of terrible deprivations as a vanquished aggressor in that conflict. Japan holds the grave distinction of being the only country in the world to have suffered the horrors of the atomic bomb. What a cruel trick of fate, then, that a race with deep, traumatic memories of the destructive power of nuclear technology, now already battered by brutal earth and surging sea, must also wrestle with the existential anxiety of multiple melting nuclear reactors at its doorstep.

Japan holds the admirable reputation of being a people who help—and fast. Containing the meltdowns at those crippled reactors requires rapid and intensive international effort, not least because any adverse effects would certainly extend beyond Japan and to other parts of the world. Survivors also need clothing, supplies, food, tent shelters—basic amenities with which to get by.

One might be stumped at the idea of lending help to Japan, a famously prosperous and self-reliant nation. How exactly do you help this economic powerhouse—so rich that, in the decades after it had risen from the rubble of war, it would become the world's biggest foreign aid donor to struggling countries, sent only to the United States?

The Philippines, while it had suffered tremendously under Japanese occupation, would become a regular recipient of that country's largesse. Japan has been a good neighbor—usually among the first to offer assistance in times of typhoons and other calamities, while also supporting collaborative endeavors across a wide front, from infrastructure and technology to education and culture.

That generosity requires that we reciprocate now, as the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines rightly reminded the country. The CBCP is taking the lead by urging Filipinos to extend help through its charity arm, Caritas Filipinas, donations to which will be spent on food, water, shelter and rebuilding homes and schools in Japan.

There are other ways. The Red Cross can be counted on to be among the first at the scene of the disaster. Its operations in Japan, especially in the country's east coast which bore the brunt of the devastation, need all the help they can get at this moment. The local Red Cross would know best how to forward to them any form of help coming from the Philippines.

There are some things we are good at that could also constitute assistance. Our caregivers, doctors, nurses and social workers distinguish themselves in many parts of the world for their warmth, solicitousness and sense of empathy toward their patients. If we have nothing much to offer Japan in terms of money or equipment, perhaps the innate friendliness and caring of our people would do—and might even prove of more lasting benefit to survivors.

The Aquino administration must go beyond rapid, profuse expressions of sympathy and support for Japan. Obviously, it must do all it can to rescue Philippine government staff and OFWs from areas affected by the disaster. Closer to home, victims of the floods in Leyte must also be cared for. But, with a disaster of this magnitude shaking a country so its foundations, surely going beyond one's concerns is also forgivable—in fact, called for.

Japan's resources, shared with the world through foreign aid for many years, are proving paltry against an unprecedented calamity. It's our turn to offer help.

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'Promethean fire'

VIEWPOINT

Joaquin L. Mercado

"FIRE ENGULFS Fukushima #3 may be Japan's last straw," read the headline. They referred to 58 fuel-rod overheatings...since then, hastened to 100—who-dunnit five or four reactors slam upon nuclear reactors. All are volunteers.

"Under my chin," a Japanese governor's says, it seems to transcend the message. Those 50...suggested now by Einstein and crimes—dumping wastes from hydrogens, only to prevaricate a response of Russia's Ukiki Chernobyl meltdowns.

"If that plant explodes, it's the end for all of us," Wanda Akihiki told BBC. "All I can do is avoid more overexposure."

Shadows are upside for us, too.

Australia, Germany and the United States urged voluntary evacuation of citizens and relatives. Rotary picked up almost 200 Filipinos from Sendai and formidable Catholic church to Hongkong and Shanghai before their behest they became—to joblessness.

Despite economic grounds, 150,000 Filipinos became unemployed in January, the National Statistics Office reports. Their cards will further be random by overseas Filipino workers, forcing remain-mailers to the Middle East.

"The Arab democracy spring that began with such enthusiasm in Tunisia and Egypt is now ending in a bitter winter in Libya, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Yemen," the New York Times notes. The UN Security Council's decision to clamp a no-fly zone in Libya can have dire purposes.

In Japan, the fear is radiation. An evacuation zone of 12 miles has been carved out. A circle of ghost towns and holes is widening. Is this "Promethean fire"?

Greek fables depict Prometheus as god of study content, the dumbed people feels dirty and snatched the elusive atoms from untrodden wisdom within nukes, the flame was passed on to mortals.

Furious, Zeus created the first woman, Pandora. She was to usher "misfortunes into the house of man." Prometheus was cast to a rocks on Mount Kazakstan. There, an eagle fed upon his ever-regenerating liver. Only generations later did Hercules release him to "his thief."

When scientists split the atom, men could release "Promethean fire" or ruin mountains of energy. Today, the world has 400 nuclear power plants. Fifteen countries (IO, their Fukushima, China) have plans to add to to 20 plants.

But nuclear always promised. In August 1939, Albert Einstein and Hungarian physicist Leo Szilard wrote US President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Szilard's mind: enable Nazi Germany to produce atomic bombs, they warned.

In response, the US and allies launched the secret "Manhattan Project." Five years, 130,000 workers and $2 billion later, two bombs, "Little Boy" and "Fat Man," incinerated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. So the less nine or so, the world saw nuclear finitude.

That image hastens efforts to tap nuclear arms proliferation. Iran, ruled by a fanatical theocracy, and North Korea, crippled by mass hunger, are wary of "Promethean fire" in their arsenals. Countries break free cold peace to unleash a people-crush rush weapons.

Japan's current leader has led on a review of President Corazon Aquino's decision in April 1986 to mothball the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. The cited over 4,000 technical flaws discovered by a National Union of Scientists (NSU) staff.

As Rappler Report Book $2.3 billion loan has included the project. Contracted by Westinghouse, the BNPP envisions an earthquake fault. Government has not reckoned (tribes hugged by Mexico city). "Center" becomes Diolid. The BNPP never generated a single watt of its designed 621-megawatt capacity. Taxpayers paid its last Westinghouse bill in 2007.

"I chaired the Cabinet Committee on [BNPP] and its future counterpart," recalls former Sen. Rene Saguisag. "I remain unenamored it a heated economic topic. And there's the matter of safety."

Pangasinan remains open to the idea of hosting a plant. BNPP in My Backyard? Pangasinan is not hermetically sealed. If we fear radiation from Japan, how much more from a near-door premises?

President Benigno Aquino III has no plan of renewing his mother's decision. Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said: "In terms of priority, that's on the low, low end.... Safety has been made more emphatic because of Fukushima."

Dr. Carlo Arcilla of the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences disagrees. The BNPP was not built on an active fault. It was protected against tsunami, as in the US and Taiwan. What damaged Fukushima was the 30-foot tsunami.

"The only danger associative to nuclear power is geotechnical," Arcilla said. It is incorporative to subtract the threat the atom, geothermally's "conserving infrastructure is very expensive."

Southeast Asia's largest, and continuously surrounded, nickel power plant is in Sorsogon. That has implications for a not-energy importer country. Better invest the billions into to the 2007-2030 Philippine Energy Plan.

Legislators will review Philippine proposed nuclear plans. The parameters will have to answer beyond evacuation, remain flagbar and unique-operation.

That is not enough, after Fukushima and the unrest roiling the Middle East. There, an old order of aging autocrats clash with an emerging regime of disaffected citizens who seek broader human freedoms.

Of parental lessons "Promethean fire" and liberation hopes are over two million OFWs. They seek decent livelihoods denied them by corrupt governance. "If they know of nuclear now," as in Corazon terms, "to God will it be before the dawn."

BNPP sturdier than Fukushima plant

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IF THE Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) had been in operation, and an earthquake hit, tested by a tsunami similar to what happened in Japan last weekend occurred, would it have the same level of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant (FNPP)?

The answer is an unambiguous no, according to former Rep. Mark Cojuangco of Pangasinan, who is leading the movement to study the feasibility of restarting the BNPP. And to be fair to him, because he has technical interest in all my answers related to the issue, his main concern is to bring back to realize the country more competitive by lowering its energy costs, not to threaten human lives, particularly Pangasinan, he has done a lot of homework on the subject.

Why the no?

Well, new Cojuangco, for one thing, the BNPP is built on a hilltop, 18 meters above sea level, so no tsunami could have reached it, as it is in the FNPP. Two, because the FNPP probably was designed to withstand a seismic load (imbalance the force on a structure caused by acceleration induced on an mass by an earthquake) of 0.4g, while the FNPP was designed to a seismic load of only 0.10g. Cojuangco also points out that the FNPP CEO are available despite the fact that the earthquake was stronger than its design limit, because apparently nuclear plants are built tremendously with "overkill safety factors".

But Herbert Cojuangco insinuates that while the BNPP is a BWR (Boiling Water Reactor) with only one cooling pump, the BNPP is a PWR with two separate and distinct cooling circuits. The additional redundancy apparently makes for "more forgiving of common situations" although the tradeoff is a reduction in efficiency (4 percent).

Cojuangco's views are a welcome relief from doom-and-gloom that has apparently gripped any number of people, left and far of course to do so called "anti-nukes." But that does not excuse the inaccuracies being bruited about as well are the anti-nuke position. Bambang Kenyon and Technology Secretary Mario Montejo and Sen. Miriam Santiago refuse to be manipulated.

With all the attention being focused on the Japanese tragedy (and I admire the Japanese people for their grace under tremendous pressure), let us please not overlook the latest example of the sea change (for the better) that has taken place in the Philippine Commission on Good Government (PCGG). We cannot all, lord to, because what is involved amounts to hundreds of billions (not millions) of pesos that rightly belongs to the Filipino people.

The recent court victory of the Republic (PCGG), upon the urging of the late, unlamented Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, who in turn was urged by the defense attorney, Bert Ocampo, that Ocampo's former client Jose Yao Campos, not to mention his co-riders (neighbors) over for the Sandiganbayan and the Yao's barrows.

Well, one and more, to take it. Four days ago, a motion signed by two new PCGG commissioners Gerard Monsanto and Richard Austria—and the new solicitor general Jose Calida), among others, asked that the justices hearing the case—Roland Jurado, Teresita de Jesus Bolalino and Maposoc Fernandez—voluntarily withdraw themselves. Here's why.

Why? Because of the justices' "manifest partiality and bias in favor of the powerful interests implicated in the case!" Lord Lucie Tan, which "[has long enjoyed unduly revoked the republic's faith that this case would be resolved in accordance with law, justice and equity."

I really agree. While the Motion for Withdrawal falsifies documents the bias, it is marked by logic, law and full of "equipment" and "this Honorable Court," there is my reason.

I have been following Civil Case 0033 for a long time, but two years ago, a major break appeared for the government when the brothers Tan, Lucio and Manuel, decided to negotiate a public rift. Business prospered to be a government witness against Lucio.

Shortly after that, however, the Sandiganbayan laid down a ruling, at the urging of the defense, that the plaintiff (government) had only 15 days to submit all its evidence, after the defense given another 15 days to submit—after which the case would have deemed the "decision" submitted for resolution.

The straitened reason for such a ruling (and the defense request) was that the plaintiff had dragged its feet on its case for too long. But the timing of the ruling, coming so close after the news of the possibility of Marcos's coming near witness, had to be, as the very least, reason for suspicion. My instinct was the language was couched. It was obvious (at least to a lawyer like me) that both the defense and the Sandiganbayan were acting to head off the disastrous (to Sandiganbayan testimony would wreak.

After that, the Sandiganbayan seemed to be accommodating every motion filed by the prosecution for what, acting with the defense every time. I was forcefully reminded of the time showed by their Regional Trial Court Judge Amelia Tolentino in the Hyatt case (she got her comeuppance from Supreme Court justice Dante Tinga).

So get them, PCGG and DOJ. The Filipinos deserve a break.

Income-losers still predominate

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

(c) at least P50,000, here called "high".)

% Quarters Richer % Losers			
	Quarters	Losers	Net Quarters
2009	49	47	+02
2008	48	4	+44
2006	48	4	+44
2003	44	4	+40
2000	44	4	+40

Among those with low incomes, the numbers are all negative, indicating a pervasive gap or pandemonium of losers; but at least it dropped to -31 by 2008 from -44 in 2006. Among those with high incomes, net gainers (+) are slightly positive, reaching +13 in 2008. By those with high incomes the numbers are all highly positive—indicating a strong pandemonium spread around it a year—and doubled +36 in 2008. The average people, weighted, of the numbers -11, +18, and +13 is the zero national big net of 2.

In 2009Q1, when the CEI began, there were improvements with low incomes, 20 percent were medium incomes, and only 5 percent with high incomes. By 2010Q4, however, there were no gainers in the low group, 37 percent in the medium group, and 8 percent in the high group. The fall of the low and medium groups might not have coincided with the rise in the cost of living and the near-exhaustion of the low, medium and high income families.

* * *

In a forum of the Philippine Statistical Association on October, I criticized the government's failure to act on its quarterly surveys, one being the CEI, to measure vital economic matters like poverty and hunger. Tuesday I was thanking the CEI methodology, PSS president and former Honorary Board member Virginia Paderanga, for including the CEI methodology. PSS president and former Honorary Board member Virginia Paderanga, for including the CEI methodology. PSS president and former Honorary Board member Virginia Paderanga, for including the CEI methodology.

After a cordial meeting with Gerona and her CEI staff on July 2, I wrote her on Feb. 4 to express my appreciation, saying,

"Thanks to the interesting and the economic tea provided us, we have learned the following matters:

"1. The CEI dollbrick is done by the SWS (National Statistics Office) under instruction, from the 6,000 sample, a sample drawn by the SWS (Statistics Master Sampling Data Base, to represent the nationwide population of households. I have confidence in the capability of the SWS on these matters. The dollbrick as well as data processing are completed within 10 days. The figures are usually available with less than one quarter's delay.

"2. The size of the CEI sample is actually very large—in 2010Q4, according to your table, with 2,000 respondents in NCR and 2,340 respondents in Area Outside NCR—which is the usual dollbrick of 1,200 respondents. Besides the SWS master sample (MSDS), further, for several regular quarters, for instance giving details for the Price of Labor, People and Households with very high income accuracy.

"3. As the same time, the size of the CEI questionnaire is large, with the individual data expanded to include some related, additional matters. I commend you in the morning that, for instance, the 1998 quarterly survey module on poverty and hunger requires only about 10 questions on income.

"In the morning, I likened the CEI to a great science museum, showing or explaining all the basic scientific tables, and not focused on only a few of them. That I strongly recommend that the BSP make full use of the CEI, to obtain much more data in the process, some contributors of Filipino does are presently being generated by the government's regular statistical agencies. On this matter, the BSP staff colleagues (SPS) for any no-fund assistance it may need."

CEI materials are open to the public on www.pulsepinoy.com.

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar@sws.org.ph/@sws.org.ph

Bizarre

I FIRST heard about the earthquake in Japan on Facebook, just a few hours after it happened. Postings of horrors being swept away by the subsequent wave of debris looked like something straight out of a disaster movie. My first thought was for my new friendster and his family who are living in Kobe, the great setting of a major earthquake in 1995. I was relieved when I found him online a few minutes later indicating that they were all safe.

The natural images were hard to get over. It was impossible to watch them and not think about the abominable human suffering now, both real and virtual, were sweeping people with it as well. And people who just minutes earlier were living normal lives.

Incidentally, minutes later was immediately followed by thousands of posts on the various images of the rising sun became public property. The few Japanese friends I have had that really peppered with messages of concern and condolences for their countrymen. Despite the tragedy, it was a beautiful moment when the world, for a few days, came together as one. Even the political and historical differences were set aside as everyone recognized the disaster as a tragedy for all mankind.

The succeeding days, however, were not so heartwarming. Most people online had moved on and were once more immersed in the mundane, and concerns surrounding the topic. Links to "news" stories about the disaster were few. Non-Tokyo, which was previously filled with pictures and well-wishes, was choked with critiques and injured debates about who had too much a tragedy happen.

I was annoyed and rather unnerved with the disasters people closest to me online. One particular post prompted nothing the closure of the quake (8.9) (11) and of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in the United States (9/11/01) to come up with the end of the world date—12/21/12)—something with the same vein as the Mayan Apocalypse popularized in the movie "2012." I did my own calculations, and came up with 402.2 hours from the time of the earthquake to the supposed end of four-digit numbers. But why in the world would anyone add two numbers, save quantum numbers?

Some incredibly bizarre online articles offered alternative explanations for how and why the quake happened. I have selected the single that seemed the most complete for its sweet government operations and the like, but I found out that even non-conformists are not exempt.

Blaming the moon for triggering earthquakes might have some scientific basis due to its gravitational pull on our oceans. But to say that the earthquake was the result of what which could affect geological activity. On the other end of the spectrum, some dating theorists spoke of secret atomic experiments underneath the oceans and as Area 51-like facility as already which can supposedly trigger earthquakes by "testing" the ionosphere (which is another term used around) using high-frequency radio waves—despite the name meant the innovative guide to home oil prices.

Even such bad science sparked some concern among my friends. One text we received, those going to Singapore, because it is so close to the sea. I told her it was more likely that her plane would crash on the way to Singapore or that she'd die in a watery death in a tsunami. Statistically, it was even more likely she would die in a car accident on her way to the airport. She replied to me she'd be all that, of course, but she still was concerned about going there during a "dangerous time."

I calmly explained that Singapore has been lying to the Ring of Fire for many years and to stress days are just about as dangerous as any other.

Then there was the radiation scare. I was surprised last Monday afternoon when many of my random friends on Facebook started popping online non-stop, all of them clearly hell. In the midst of the tragedy, rumors were flying that Japan's damaged nuclear reactor was supposedly causing radioactive particles from inside. They were told to stay indoors until all the windows closed.

I am not a nuclear physicist but I know that for radiation to make your skin blistered and your hair fall in clumps, you have to be in the vicinity of a nuclear explosion. Or, at the very least, for the more subtle health effects, I am sure that very few Japanese will be laid to mind when they ordered people within a 20 kilometers radius of the plant to evacuate. Being much further away, common sense dictates that I should not worry until they start consuming the whole of Japan radioactive.

It got worse. After dozens of people, those were mostly who suddenly remembered history. I was shocked to read one such comment on Facebook claiming the disaster as Lemuria retribution for Pearl Harbor. Those who know history well, I'm sure already received retribution for what Japan's damaged nuclear reactor was supposedly causing radioactive particles from inside. They were told to stay indoors until all the windows closed.

I am not a nuclear physicist but I know that for radiation to make your skin blistered and your hair fall in clumps, you have to be in the vicinity of a nuclear explosion. Or, at the very least, for the more subtle health effects, I am sure that very few Japanese will be laid to mind when they ordered people within a 20 kilometers radius of the plant to evacuate. Being much further away, common sense dictates that I should not worry until they start consuming the whole of Japan radioactive.

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Slap to ARMM voters

LETTERS

HOUSE BILL 4146, which seeks to move the regular elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) from August this year to May 2013, and to hold them simultaneously with the nationwide elections for some seats, violates the Constitution and undermines the sovereign will of the Filipino people, particularly the Muslims in the ARMM. Sadly, it comes at a time when the Bangsamoro have hope for lasting peace to dawn on the troubled, given their ardent trust that President Aquino will fulfill his promise of a just, free and level playing field in the political arena.

Postponing the elections and extending the governance of the ARMM in the hands of appointed officers in charge (OICs) would be unjustified, worse, unconstitutional. It belittles the mental, social and physical capabilities of the ARMM voters to choose their own leaders through democratic processes. It is an insult to them.

And such a move will only confirm the long-standing perception that the Muslims in the Philippines are being discriminated against; that they are considered mere puppets who have to do whatever the government wants even if it's a violation of their rights.

Extending the powers to appoint instead of holding elections for the purpose of choosing the ARMM's administrators is sure to only cause more division among the Muslims as their leaders vie against each other to get themselves elected by Malacañang. This obviously goes against the present administration's vision and goal to usher the peace and order problem in Mindanao—a problem magnified as the source by the dissenter groups.

We therefore appeal to our lawmakers and, most especially, to President Aquino to push through with the holding of the ARMM elections scheduled on Aug. 8, 2011.

—RAWIDA B. ADIONG,
chairman,
alliance of concerned Muslims
in the ARMM
San Roque, Zamboanga City

Evacuation request was tale based on falsehood

I TAKE exception to Ramon Tulfo's March 17 commentary on the supposed request of ambassador Manuel M. Lopez for him and the entire embassy staff to Tokyo to evacuate their post. There is no such request from the ambassador to the effect that in a March 16 meeting at the Philippine Star, which first published the erroneous report, that he or his personnel in Japan are under diplomatic duty in Japan. In a Foreign Affairs Department statement on March 17 also, the Philippine Star corrected its earlier report and quoted Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario who denied receiving such a request to evacuate the Tokyo Embassy from ambassador Lopez.

From Dec. 1, Ambassador Lopez established round-the-clock embassy offices to make Filipinos affected by the tsunami that struck Sendai on March 11, the did engage the embassy's repatriation of 1,000 temporarily displaced Filipinos. With the cooperation of family members assisted, embassy staff members will be more focused and better able to reach out to Filipino communities in northern Japan. Other Asian posts are already operating on skeletal staff. The Philippine Embassy in Tokyo remains open 24 hours for all Filipinos seeking assistance.

In the ambassador's own words to me, "Hangad nya kabutihan para dito sa Japan, maniwala ako."

I believe the working expression over his desk is to his work from this statement, it is a thankless job as he is government. Into the ambassador accepted the invitation to serve because he could conscientiously subscribe to its stated President Aquino.

MY father is working tirelessly with the embassy staff as requested to the needs of our fellow Filipinos in Japan. I'm sure his staff need all the support they can get in this time. Magbalik-loob, ga ka sya.

—MIGUEL L. LOPEZ

Released pork barrel was for 2010, not 2011

I WISH to make a clarification on the news article titled "Pork released can classify be impeachable, state solons" (Inquirer, 3/15/11).

Let me say on the record straight: I never said that the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) will be released in case the impeachment proceedings against Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez is pursued.

As House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte correctly said, what we have released were the 2010 PDAF allocations for legislators who expressed supporting disclaimers were submitted last. Meanwhile, no releases from the 2011 PDAF allocations of legislators have been made yet, as the guidelines for such are still about to be finalized.

President Aquino had already made this clear-cut in the past administration, the PDAF will be distributed to all members of the House and Senate regardless of their party affiliation or stand on any issue. After all, it is our constituents alone who suffer when his/her PDAF is withheld. It is his/her constituents.

Inquirer reporter Gil Cabacungan cited "a House source" in reporting that I "might" consider him. I wish him to argue with Cabacungan on the credibility of an anonymous source. However, I had hoped that he, being an experienced and responsible journalist, would have sought my side of the story first.

—FLORENCIO B. ABAD,
MANDAUE,
Department of Budget and Management

I sympathize my costs. I only wrote that the gentleman's release. But Professor Gil Cabacungan cited the balance of 2010. I never wrote that the gentleman's release were for this year. I got the idea of administration officials in the House and the timing and the source was duly clarified in the story.

—GIL CABACUNGAN,
reporter, Inquirer

Rights of accused also call for utmost vigilance

SEVERITAS bows in response to the call for more vigilance by the President Fund for Filipino Journalists, et al. (Inquirer, 3/15/11)

While the group of journalists-turn that they are not prejudging the guilt or innocence of Ms. Dalia Antonio, their words very clearly convey their bias against the latter. There is certainly wrong with calling for vigilance, but the same should serve to look upon bias or insinuations of impudicity; but sympathize with the victims. However, it bears emphasis that a man, strongly accused of a crime he did not commit, is a victim himself. It is imperative that both regularity and innocence be presumed even when the call is for utmost vigilance to order that true democracy may be upheld.

No one can fault the vigilance in order that Governor Zaldy's rights to due process will not be transgressed.

Let it be clear that the case pending before the Court of Appeals is due process and not probable cause. One must remember that the same Constitution that guarantees a victim's right is a fair trial guarantees the accused his rights to due process. At the final analysis, there is no justice in accusing a person of having done something, on the sole basis of his relationship with the other principal suspects. Let any of us resign, accusation by mere association runs contrary to the constitutional requirement of due process and presumption of innocence until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

—ROMANDOR CALLEJA,
Calleja Law Office,
2903-A Blue Tower,
8th Building, Ayala Ave.,
Makati City

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GLOSSARY OF NUCLEAR TERMS

CHERNOBYL: The place in northern Ukraine where the world's worst nuclear power plant disaster took place on April 26, 1986. A meltdown, explosion and fire at the site sent a radiation cloud over much of Europe and contaminated large areas of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, then-members of the Soviet Union's 15 constituent republics. Thousands of deaths and genet health disorders in affected areas have been attributed to the disaster.

Containment: A structure that separates the reactor from the environment. It is usually made of high-density, steel-reinforced concrete.

Core: It contains the nuclear fuel and generates heat. It contains low-grade uranium, control rods and structural materials.

Coolant: The liquid or gas material circulating through the core to prevent overheating.

Decommissioning: The process of safely closing a nuclear power plant to retire it from service. This involves decontaminating the facility to reduce residual radioactivity and then releasing the property for unrestricted or limited use. This often includes dismantling the facility or dedicating it to other purposes. Decommissioning usually begins after the nuclear fuel, coolant, and radioactive waste are removed.

Ensemble: A method of decommissioning, in which radioactive contaminants are encased in a structurally long-lived material, such as concrete. The entombed structure is maintained and surveillance is continued until the entombed radioactive waste decays to a level permitting termination of the license of the nuclear facility and unrestricted release of the property.

Fission: The splitting of a heavy nucleus into two roughly equal parts accompanied by the release of a relatively large amount of energy.

Fuel rod: A long slender tube that holds uranium, which fuels a nuclear reactor.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): The agency, with 151 member states, that supports nuclear and related facilities under safeguard agreements. It was established in 1957 to facilitate the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Meltdown: It refers to the melting of nuclear fuel rods in the reactor core, releasing radiation to the process. This happens when reactor rods are not able to control the chain reactions inside the core, or if cool water is not pumped into the reactor continuously.

In partial meltdowns, the fuel rods may be only damaged, a portion of them having been left uncovered by cooling water long enough to crack, allowing the release of some radioactive elements in the fuel.

In full meltdowns, all cooling water is lost and the rods become completely uncovered. Melting is all but guaranteed, as thousands of fuel pellets fall to the bottom of the reactor and heat themselves into a molten pool at several thousand degrees Celsius. The useful fuel might breach the reactor's pressure vessel and then its containment, leading to widespread release of radioactivity.

Nuclear power plant: A facility that converts atomic energy into usable power.

Nuclear Reactor: A device that contains and controls sustained nuclear reactions. It produces heat that generates electricity.

Potassium iodide: A compound that tolerates claim will give some protection from exposure to radioactive iodine-131, which is one of the fission products that can be released in a meltdown. Potassium iodide, however, will not give any protection against any other radioactive isotope that may be released in a meltdown at a nuclear power plant.

Pressurized water reactor: A common nuclear power reactor design in which very pure water is heated to a very high temperature by fission, kept under high pressure (to prevent it from boiling), and circulated to steam by a steam generator. The resulting steam is used to drive turbines, which activate generators to produce electric power.

Radiation: The particles or rays emitted from the nucleus of an unstable radioactive atom as a result of radioactive decay.

Radioactivity: The spontaneous decay of (disintegration of an unstable atomic nucleus accompanied by the emission of radiation.

Sievert: A unit of measurement for radiation dosage. The World Health Organization says that the average person is exposed to 2 millisieverts a year of radiation from naturally occurring, medical and other sources. Exposure to 1,000 millisieverts (1 sievert) of radiation can cause radiation sickness.

Spill: The accidental release of radioactive materials.

Spent Fuel: The fuel rods which no longer have sufficient fissionable uranium to be efficiently used to produce power.

Spent Fuel Pool: An underwater storage and cooling facility for spent fuel assemblies that have been removed from a reactor.

Turbine: It rotates the heat from the coolant to electricity.

Uranium: A naturally radioactive and very dense element. Uranium-235 is the principal nuclear fuel component used in today's nuclear power reactors.

Compiled by Lawrence de Maeseneer and Elise Vincent, Inquirer Research

Sources: CNN; Global Security.org; Bernard Cohen's Glossary of Environment Statistics; Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory; New York Times; Union of Scientific Concerned; Nuclear Regulatory Commission; whatisnuclear.com; world-nuclear.org

Crisis level now 5: Burying nuke reactor eyed

From page A1

But our priority right now is to try and cool them down first," an official from the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., told a news conference.

Japan's nuclear safety agency raised the crisis level at the Fukushima Daiichi facility to 5 from 4 on the international scale of gravity for atomic accidents, which goes to as high as 7.

France's Nuclear Safety Authority rates the Fukushima crisis at 6 on the scale, the Chernobyl disaster is an 7, the highest.

Level 4 means there has been an "accident with local consequences."

The decision by the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (Nisa) puts Fukushima on the same level as the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania and makes it the worst ever in Japan.

HEART BREAKING SIGHT A woman cries after the body of her mother was found in Onagawa on Friday, one week after a massive earthquake and tsunami hit northeastern Japan. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cooling function lost

A spokesperson for Nisa said it had alerted the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to the crisis, which was rated due to the condition of reactors 1, 2 and 3 at the plant stricken by last week's massive earthquake and tsunami.

"The cooling function was lost and the reactor cores were damaged. Radioactive particles continue to be released in the environment," he said.

Among the six reactors at the power plant, reactors 1, 2 and 3 were operating at the time of the quake and leaked automatically.

But the reactors, believed to have partially melted because the twin disasters knocked out the plant's reactor cooling system, sparking a series of explosions and fires.

Authorities have since struggled to keep fuel rods inside reactors and fuel storage containment pools under water. If they are exposed to air, they could degrade further and emit large amounts of dangerous radioactive material.

Three Mile Island, Chernobyl

The March 28, 1979, accident at Three Mile Island was a partial reactor meltdown that led to "very small" releases of radioactivity. It caused no casualties, but was rated 5, corresponding to "an accident with wider consequences." Level 6 is a "serious accident."

The April 26, 1986, explosion at the Soviet nuclear power plant in Chernobyl was the world's worst atomic accident.

It spewed radioactive dust over swathes of Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and western Europe. Estimates of the death toll ranged from the UN figure of 4,000 to tens or even hundreds of thousands, proposed by non-governmental groups.

The reclassification did not appear to signal that the crisis had grown more severe, only that officials felt it needed to be signalled.

Japan overwhelmed

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano acknowledged on Friday that the government was overwhelmed by the scale of last week's twin disasters.

Nuclear experts have been saying for days that Japan had been underplaying the severity of the crisis.

"The unprecedented scale of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan, frankly speaking, were among many things that happened that had not been anticipated under our disaster management contingency plans," Edano said, admitting that information had not been shared quickly enough.

"In hindsight we could have moved a little quicker in assessing the situation and coordinating all that information and provided it faster," he said.

Almost 17,000 dead, missing

The number of confirmed dead in the earthquake and tsunami has hit 6,539, surpassing the toll from the massive tremor in Kobe in 1995, police said.

The number of unaccounted for rose to 10,354, putting the combined total of dead and missing at 16,893. A total of 2,353 people were injured.

The chances of finding more survivors have dwindled.

Fear of radiation

Millions in Tokyo remained indoors on Friday, fearing a blast of radioactive material from the nuclear complex, 240 kilometers to the north, although prevailing winds would likely carry contaminated smoke or steam away from the densely populated city to disperse over the Pacific Ocean.

Radiation did not pose an immediate risk to human health outside the vicinity of the plant, said Michael O'Leary, the World Health Organization's representative in China.

President Barack Obama, who stressed the United States did not expect any harmful radiation to reach its shores, said he had ordered a comprehensive review of domestic nuclear plants and pledged flanking Tokyo's support for Japan.

The Group of Seven rich nations, stepping in together to calm global financial markets after a tumultuous week, agreed to join in coax concerted intervention to restrain a soaring yen.

History of secrecy

The Japanese government has been slow in releasing information on the crisis, even as the troubles have multiplied. In a country where the nuclear industry has a long history of hiding its safety problems, this has left many people—in Japan and among governments overseas—confused and anxious.

At times, Japan and the United States—two very close allies—have offered starkly differing assessments over the dangers in the Fukushima plant.

Tokyo said on Friday it was asking Washington for help.

A US military fire truck was used to help spray water into the crippled Unit 3 in Fukushima. The US vehicle was used alongside an Japanese military fire trucks.

The fire trucks allowed emergency workers to stay a relatively safe distance from the radiation, firing the water with high-pressure cannons.

Cooling may take weeks

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission said it could take weeks to reverse the overheating of fuel rods at the plant.

The Vienna-based IAEA said the radiation level at the plant was as high as 40 millisieverts per hour. The limit for the workers was 100 per hour.

At its worst, radiation in Tokyo was 0.809 of an microsievert per hour this week, 18 times below what a person would receive if exposed to a dental X-ray.

More than 452,000 people made homeless by the quake and tsunami are living in evacuation and other shelters, as supplies of fuel, medicine and other necessities run short.

About 343,000 Japanese households still do not have electricity, and about 1 million have no water. *Reports from Reuters, AFP and AP*

Survivor: It's my land, I want to rebuild, I've been here all my life

From page A1

hen last Friday's monster 8.9-magnitude earthquake and the tsunami that followed.

On Thursday afternoon, a small crowd gathered outside an ivy emerged from the edges of the debris clinging a muddy mortar bag.

Inside were a handful of outsiders relating to Kurahama's village committee.

"I used to do the sermons for them. They'll need them," said Enomoto.

No village left

At the moment, there is no village for the committee to serve.

Instead, its remains are picked over by teams of Japanese troops, part of the 180,000 strong force mobilized by Prime Minister Naoto Kan for the country's worst tragedy since World War II.

Nationally more than 10,000 are dead or missing, with more than a third of them known to have perished.

There appears to be little chance they are searching for survivors in Kurahama among the 200 or so villagers that locals said were still officially missing.

One soldier, who did not want to be named, deflected a question on the subject. It was a body search in Kesennuma.

"I've not really been told very much," he said.

The everyday, the unbelievable

He and his colleagues spent Thursday combing a clearing near what is left of crumpled homes, where the everyday and the unbelievable lie strewn in mash piled among the land.

A pair of red clippers or an unbroken cup sit incongruously near the top half of a traditional style house, torn from the ground floor and dumped on its roof.

Closer to the sea and the vicinity of the wave that hit into the coast is even more opaque: steel railway tracks ripped up and buckled in mixed like a loose, a car lobbed in two; huge chunks of tarmac stacked where a road used to run.

The infrastructure work required to fix this town—one of possibly scores that were wrecked by the massive waves—is immense. And that work has yet even begun.

Refugees like Rikan Nemoto are sheltering in a community center, where he says they have no electricity, no gas and no running water.

Yuki have mothers for the night and they are setup cots ashore in "shelters," he said. Overnight temperatures have hovered around freezing for the last few nights, made worse by a biting wind that brings snow flurries.

No words

Nemoto, 70, described how he was at home with his wife in Kurahama when the quake struck last Friday.

"There was an announcement over the network of speakers was by the herald telling us 'Get away, get away, a tsunami is coming.'"

The couple ran up a hill and watched their house get swept away.

HAS ANYONE SEEN HER? Qiuko survivor Kanji Sugamoto brings a portrait of his wife, Yumiko, from his house in Kesennuma town where his residence was was at Otsuchi, Japan, on Friday. ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I can't tell you how it felt. I don't have the words," he said.

Nemoto says he hopes his whole life in a place where he says "everyone knows each other," spent Thursday afternoon among the flotsam and jetsam of his village.

"I'm looking for things. I had lots of stuff in my house. I don't know where my house is. It's all contained in my head," he said.

Rebuilding for the young

Despite the overwhelming horror of last week's events, Nemoto is undeterred.

"I want to talk to the children, but I have to rebuild," he said.

"Maybe not just here, maybe up in the hills a little, but what else can I do? What else is there to do?

"You have to stop hopeful; it's not for me, it's for the young people," he said.

Enomoto agreed. "The young people will have to decide at the end of the day. But if I can rebuild, I will," he said. AFP

Gadhafi halts all military operations

From page A1

would cease "rapidly ... within a few hours," and French sources said the thrusts led attacks could include one or more Arab countries.

The United States, Britain and France were expected to assemble fighter jets against Gadhafi's forces. But a US official said no immediate US action was expected.

Europe's air traffic agency banned civilian flights from Libyan air space while Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced he would deploy Tomcats and Typhoon fighter jets as well as air-to-air refueling and surveillance aircraft.

Gulf state Qatar said it would take part but it was unclear whether that meant military help, while Denmark said it planned to contribute war planes.

The three military powers—US, Britain and France—could be joined by Canada, which according to Canadian media planned to deploy six CF-18 fighter jets.

Norway said it would take part in the operation and Denmark assured parliament approval before joining the action with F-16 warplanes. Ireland offered hospital support but no role in a military strike force.

Belgium said it was ready to intervene under the Nato umbrella, with six F-16 jets and a frigate.

Germany warns of risks

But Germany, which abstained from the UN voting, warned of "considerable risks and dangers," and insisted no German troops would participate in military intervention.

The UN resolution, approved with the backing of the United States, France and Britain, imposed a no-fly zone over Libya and authorized force short of a ground offensive to protect its people from Gadhafi's forces.

The UN action bans all flights in Libyan airspace in order to protect civilians. While it says nowhere how the West might proceed, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said earlier in the day that a no-fly zone would require bombing targets inside Libya, including some of its defense systems.

US officials, speaking after a closed-door briefing in Congress, said they expected an attempt to general Gadhafi's Air Force could begin by Sunday or Monday and would probably involve jet fighters, bombers and surveillance aircraft.

'Don't betray me'

Gadhafi, calling in to Libyan television on Thursday, said his forces would "remove" the people of Benghazi, the Muslim's easternmost port city that has become the capital and staging ground for the opposition.

He chose who exist, Gadhafi said, there would be "no mercy or compassion."

"This a very happy day, we will destroy your enemies," he said, warning the people of Benghazi not to stand alongside the opposition. "Prepare for the massacre to get rid of the traitors. Tomorrow we will clean the world, to cure if the city is one of traitors or heroes."

"Don't betray me, my beloved Benghazi," he said.

"We will enter Benghazi house by house, room by room," Gadhafi also said in a radio address in Benghazi late on Thursday.

Gadhafi's ground forces were still about 150 kilometers south of the city on Thursday evening Libya time, as it was unclear whether they would move on the city as quickly as he suggested.

'Gadhafi must go'

At the UN headquarters in New York, the vote was 10-0. The United States, France and Britain had all pushed for speedy approval.

"We had said all along that Gadhafi must go," said British foreign Secretary William Hague. "It is necessary to take these measures to avoid greater bloodshed."

Five nations abstained, including Russia and China, which hold veto powers on the council.

In Washington, officials said the Obama administration was readying plans to enforce the no-fly zone. The French prime minister said before the measure was passed that his nation would support military action within hours. Several Arab nations were expected to provide backing.

"Today the Security Council has responded to the Libyan people's cry for help," said Jean Ping, the UN ambassador to the UN.

US warships

The United States already has warships positioned near Libya. After eight hours of closed-door talks on Wednesday, Rice said a no-fly zone now was not enough, saying it has "inherent limitations in terms of protection of civilians in immediate risk."

French President Nicolas Sarkozy's office issued a statement afterward saying he and Obama had spoken by phone about the resolution. Obama also spoke with Cameron.

Western countries have significant military assets near Libya, including carriers in the Mediterranean, a large US air base in Italy and a large British air presence on the island of Cyprus.

In addition, allied Arab countries such as Jordan and Qatar have planes and pilots often trained by the US, and many can officials have made clear they want active involvement by Arab countries if any action is taken.

The UN resolution specifically bans a ground offensive against Libya.

Cheering in Benghazi

A large crowd in Benghazi was watching the vote in an outdoor TV projection and burst into cheers, with green and red fireworks exploding overhead. In Tobruk, east of Benghazi, happy Libyans fired weapons in the air to celebrate the vote.

Speaking to reporters in Tripoli after the vote, Libyan Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Kaim struck a more conciliatory tone, offering to negotiate a ceasefire with the rebels. He welcomed the Security Council's concern for the people of Libya but called on the world not to allow them to receive weapons.

"If countries do that, they will be inviting Libyans to kill each other," he said.

The shift toward intervention—if action reflected dramatic changes on the ground in Libya in the past week.

The rebels, once confident, found themselves in danger of being crushed by an overpowering pro-Gadhafi force using rockets, artillery, tanks, warplanes. That force has advanced along the Mediterranean coast, aiming to recapture the rebel-held eastern half of Libya.

Gadhafi troops encircled the city of Ajdabiya, the first in the path of their march, but also had attacked troops positioned beyond it toward Benghazi.

By Thursday afternoon, Gadhafi's Army was holding the southern, eastern and western gardens of Ajdabiya.

The unrest in Libya began Feb. 15 in the eastern city of Benghazi and spread east to Tripoli, the capital. Like others in the Mideast, the protest started with popular demonstrations against Gadhafi, rejecting his four decades of despotic and often brutal rule. The tone quickly changed after Gadhafi's security in Tripoli forcefully put down the gatherings there. Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters

Kadhafi announces Benghazi assault

Libyan troops told to show 'no mercy' in rebel stronghold

Leave now, gov't tells Filipinos in Libya

MALACAÑANG appealed on Friday to Filipinos still in Libya to leave the country after the United Nations authorized use and air strikes against Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's forces.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said that based on information from the Department of Foreign Affairs, "we have managed to evacuate 90 per cent of our OFWs in Libya. The remaining 10 percent, for reasons of their own, choose to stay in Libya."

"We have to do a little bit of convincing as that's their would-be brought to safety," she added.

Valte said the government needed to inform the Filipino moment on moving in Libya of the gravity of the situation.

"We have to let them know what the situation is, what the dangers are and hopefully convince them to evacuate," Valte said. Norman Bordadora

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Smart Gilas tabs 1st playoff slot

By Jasmine N. Payo

SMART GILAS PILIPINAS cut loose in the third period before fending off Iran or Hong Kong's late chase for a 99-94 triumph yesterday that secured the national team's slot in the next round of the FIBA Asia Championship in Tianjin, China.

The young nationals rallied to a remarkable fifth-straight victory with guards JV Casio and Chris Ross orchestrating the second-half breakaway at the Genesis Amvokenas.

"We are now in a situation where we can get the No. 1 or No. 2," said national coach Rajko Toroman.

In the second game, import Olaniyi Ogochi nailed a contested go-ahead triple with 29.1 ticks remaining to lift Shinsako past Shelby Ave, 89-86, the Bells' first win of the game.

Mac Cardona sealed the victory for Shinsako—which overcame a double-digit lead in a 4-point loss to Shelby Ave's zero-loss throne, eight seconds left in the game.

"I felt like we didn't give up on that," said Morales coach Bjorn Gregorio whose team's ended, 73-65, four minutes left in the fourth. "Ogochi nailed no-cot big time."

Casio exploded with 29 points built on a sizzling 5-of-7 clip from three-point range, on top of three rebounds and four assists to power Smart Gilas.

Ross also drained 22 markers, including a key triple that sparked a baby bounce to give Gilas a 90-86 cushion with 53 seconds remaining.

The rallying Elasto Painters still closed in at 86-82 with 14.8 ticks left following quick shots from injured Hamed Adams and Jeff Chan, before Ely kept Gilas ahead by nailing three of four free throws in the dwindling seconds.

Marcus Douthit, the 6-foot-10 American who has just been granted Filipino citizenship, remained as dominating as ever with 23 points, 18 rebounds and four blocks that helped Gilas stay as the only unbeaten squad in the 16-team tournament.

Toroman reiterated his anticipated a tight match against the Chain Painters.

"Like I said, Iran or China is a very respectable team," said Toroman. "Good players, good league. But at the end of the day we deserved to win."

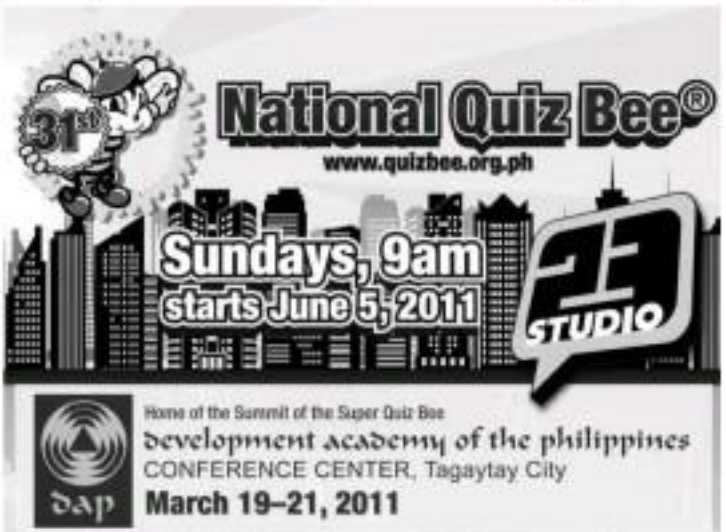
Smart Gilas—whose list of victims include powerhouses Taiji 'S' Iran, Amoks and Iran Mighty Pars—grabbed away from a 49-34 deadlock with 10 unanswered points in a three-minute span late in the third quarter for a 75-60 spread.

Chris Lutz added 13 points in Smart Gilas' strongest start in two PBA stints.

The Painters, sliding to their second loss, fell to a share of fourth with Gaobiao at 1-2.

Douthit, meanwhile, just gained automatic Filipino citizenship after his application for naturalization, approved by both houses of Congress, lapsed into law last week.

The development now made Douthit eligible to join the national squad in the Fiba Asia Championship in Wuhan, China, on Sept. 13 to 25, when the country shoots for a continental slot for the 2012 Olympics. With reports from Cesar Flores, Inquirer.net



Lucena, Gier boost Azkals in Rangoon

By Cedrik P. Tupas

TEAM PILIPINAS football team got a massive boost on the eve of its departure for Myanmar yesterday as Filipino-Danish midfielder Aly Lucena and Filipino-Dutch defender Rob Gier confirmed their appearances in the group stage of the AFC Challenge Cup in Rangoon.

Lucena, one of the players who have long been in the Azkals' wish list, is expected to play in the last two games of the group stage against Palestine and Bangladesh, while Gier will link up with the rest of the squad today in Bangkok, where they will take the flight to the Burmese capital.

A veteran of the Championship, the second tagpo in Britain, Gier will only play the first two games—against Myanmar on Monday and Bangladesh on Wednesday.

Hopes are also high that James de Jong will be able to make it to Myanmar, after Philippine football federation president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta appealed to the Indonesian Football Federation to convince De Jong's club, Perstha Bailapapan, to release the Filipino-Dutch midfielder for the tournament.

"I think we will be running in with the strongest team possible," said team manager Dan Palami. "It's a little difficult with Gier and Lucena only playing two games, but we have knowing that the players and aspirations of the country are behind us."

Barring ex-Filipinas Johen and Chaniddi with the 30-year-old Lucena, who played for Denmark in the Under-18 and Under-20 levels, was earlier ruled out for the tournament after picking up an injury while training with his club Aarhus in the Danish first division.

Attacking midfielder

Lucena can play the attacking midfield position, considered one of the squad's weak spots in the absence of Chris Greatwich, the team's top scorer in last year's AFC Suzuki Cup.

Also back for the group stage is goalkeeper Neil Etheridge, defender Daniel Ross and Simon Beckett, while Hiroshi Yamori, Wilhem Gustvidon Espinosa and Angel Alabquerque are expected to start.

PFF president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta and Suzuki Orlindo of Suzuki signed the memorandum of agreement making Suzuki the tournament's sponsor for the next three years.

POC ditches Go, recognizes Romasanta

By Marc-Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE KARATEDO Federation president Go Teng Kok yesterday raised a furor after the Philippine Olympic Committee recognized in spite of protest, Joey Romasanta, as POC's acting head during a recent executive council session.

Go, who is also the track and field chief, said that with the move, the POC committee itself

TOTO Oledan (left) pulls in front in the final stretch before pipping PAT teammate Mark Gamores at the finish line in Iba.

ZAMBA MULTISPORTS

Oledan tops in cycling

By Jove Navarro

CANDELARIA, ZAMBALES—Toto Oledan zoomed out his more seasoned rivals in a **three-three-rammed sprint to rule the** Cycling Challenge of the inaugural **Zambales Multisports Festival here.**

Oledan, 22, broke away from the main pelo ton in the last 25 kilometers before beating team four of Lawrence Lemuel Mark Gamores and the veteran Oscar Galindo to the wire in two hours and 57 seconds.

Straddled with former road race champion and an Asian race medalist, the 66-man field snaked along a 120 km circuit from the Zambales provincial capitol in Iba to mount Sta. Cruz before returning to its point of origin.

"I pushed myself and gave it all to the last 25 km. Di Manitoc tawid," said Oledan, who hails from Laoigan, Leyte, in Filipino.

Oledan was part of the peloton that caught up with three specialist and erstwhile pacesetter Ruhi Ramos in Manitoc.

Ramos, holder of a seven-kg Cup of the Mountain awards to local inhabitants, set soon to rise. One as the field made its way back to Iba, went solo for the next 30 km, before finally yielding the front to the peloton spearheaded by 2009 Palarik Pinoy winner Joel Calderon.

Runners-late, the road race bronze medalist in the Asian Junior Championships in Thailand last month, showed promise in his first major local race, finishing 17th overall.

Ravina wound up fourth and posted similar clockings of 2:58:00 with Ricardo Guanzon, Hermie Gaoway, Ferwen Ghosa, Fandie Quinones, Francis Ramos and Calderon.

Zambales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. flagged-off the riders following the opening rites of the three-day festival.

"I am delighted with the turnout," Ebdane said. "Ito ay isa sa mga way Zambales is making its mark in sports and sports tourism."

The Duathlon Challenge 10K and run, 30K bike, 3K run) first off at 9 a.m. today, before swimmers take off at the Dazol Beach front for the Blackened-Poipet Island Open Water 2K Swim Challenge at 2 p.m. In between the two events, the Black Sands Challenge Beach Ultimate Frisbee will be played at 10 a.m.

Dulay puts lock on Visayas reg'l golf title

CEBU'S DULAY fired a tournament best three-under par 67 on Thursday and put a virtual lock on the National Golf Association of the Philippines' Visayas Regional Amateur golf championship with an 11-stroke lead over Paul Pacheco at the Maayo-an Resort.

Dulay, who was part of a couple of junior Pinoy Cup teams, now has a 54-hole 209 total in the event presented by Pamilee House and BOC Land and backed by Evan Dayot, Call away and Odyssey golf and Mizuno.

Counting earlier rounds of 68 and 74, the 25-year-old Dulay romped past above the rest, with Ventura, who carries logs at the Bacolod Golf and Country Club in Bonita, Murcia, shooting a 69 to be at 220.

Veteran campaigner Jil Tinpluco fired a 71 and has a further three strokes off, even as Ben Echanez shot to a 74 for 224.

Amelo Lingig fired a 70 for 226 to remain in the hunt for one of three all-expenses paid trips to Manila to see action in the 2011 Philippine Amateurs in Cavite next month.

CLEMSON GAINS

Obama picks top seeds for Final 4

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama may be a Democrat but his choices of teams to make the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament are decidedly conservative.

Obama, a nonvarsity basketball player himself, chose all the No. 1 seeds—Kansas, Ohio State, Pittsburgh and Purdue—to make it to the Final Four of the tournament in Houston.

The president unveiled on Wednesday his March Madness bracket to ESPN basketball analyst Andy Katz at the White House.

Again this year he chose Kansas to win it all, even though he advanced the Jayhawks had let him down in 2010.

Meanwhile, the 12-seeded Clemson Tigers built an early double-digit lead before falling 64-76 to the 5th-seeded West Virginia Mountaineers in the second round of the NCAA tournament on Thursday. Reuters

Basketball TV roll: on March Madness games on Channel 34 at Global Destiny, Channel 71 on Skycable and Channel 46 on Cignal. For schedules and a look at the tournament bracket, log on to sportsabs.com.

CHICAGO'S Derrick Rose (right) challenges a shot by New Jersey's Deron Williams. AP

Knicks rip foes; Bulls up in East

NEW YORK—Toney Douglas shot a scorching 29-point haul off the bench to help the New York Knicks set a franchise record for three-pointers in their 120-99 rout of the Memphis Grizzlies on Thursday.

The second-year guard also tied the franchise's individual three-point record, his ninth successful shot landing with 17 seconds to play and handing the Knicks (35-32) their second straight win for the eighth.

"The ball at the seven's table just said, 'Hit me now there.' I was like, 'Hell? I didn't realize it would be the (individual) record," Douglas told reporters.

He just said to hit one more there, but I didn't really pay any mind. I was just playing my game and taking what the defense gave me."

Douglas's shooting rearguardian allowed the Knicks to hold on to sixth place in the Eastern Conference with a half-game lead over the Philadelphia 76ers.

In Newark, New Jersey, Derrick Rose scored 25 points as the Chicago Bulls extended its longest winning streak in six years to eight games with an 89-73 victory over the Nets.

Taurl Deng added 16 points for the Bulls (49-16), who took a half-game lead over idle Boston in the race for the best record in the Eastern Conference. Boozie Omer Asik added 11 points and a career-high 16 rebounds.

Rebounds, LeBron James (Heritage Inn/23 points and 11 rebounds before heading to the bench late in the third quarter as the Blazers crushed the Cleveland Cavaliers, 111-76. AP Reuters

Patrombon logs three tennis wins

BUCKING A twisted ankle, Jason Patrombon finished off a big morning With Kyrgios of Australia, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, Thursday to punch an ticket to the boys singles quarterfinals before retiring back-to-back wins with Jaden Ulmer of New Zealand to make the semifinals to doubles in the 15th Sarawak Chief Minister's Cup in Kuching, Malaysia.

Patrombon went straight to the physiotherapist to check on his left ankle, which was on ice after the 4foot-10inch diminutive pushed the Filipino top seed into the next second against sixth seed Julien Cagnina of Belgium, who hosted out 12th seed Rinkin Pejic of Serbia, 6-2, 6-0.

He coach, Manny Tecson, said Patrombon is eyeing no less than the title in the Grade 1 event, but still hopes to be in top shape representing in the Philippine leg next week.

He's the only remaining Asian in the singles draw, which already cut the likes of Australian Open boys singles finalist Luke Saville of Australia and Thailand leg champ Issaraphong Kittisuk of The United States.

In boys doubles, Patrombon and Ulmer defeated Thailand's Nattanon Kaikhajonsan and Germany's Justin Kahlke, 6-3, 7-5, before downing Morgan Johansson and Niclas Lindmark of Sweden, 6-3, 6-3, to march into the semifinals. Marc Anthony Reyes

Summit Point Invt'l golf fires off today

A TOTAL of 400 players will vie for prizes worth more than a million in the Summit Point Invitational golf tournament today in Lipa, Batangas.

Batangas Vice Gov. Mark Leviste, Summit Point Realty president Rubbie Leviste, Vicente Santos, executive vice president of Sta. Lucia Realty, and their partners will lead the field of 288 two-man teams for the 18-hole competition.

Up for grabs is a motorcycle at Summit Point for a hole-in-one on the 17th hole of the Summit Point Golf and Country Club. This is on top of P100,000 in cash on holes 2 and 13, playing caption on No. 6 and a Misano golf set on No. 6.

N. LEWIS'S

The main raffle prize is again of annual cop tickets to San Diego, California. Also listed as consolation are two rounds of golf at Torrey Pines, site of the 2008 US Open. The partner of the winning player gets an iPad.

Sponsors are Misano, Sta. Lucia, New Century Insurance, J.& W Goldbuilt, Ria golf, Lotanico and Bobbie Cordero.

Don't miss the hard-hitting action at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center, Malate, Manila.

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March 22 - 25 : Main Draw
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Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Lituaday

Suspect in kidnap wants to turn witness

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE SUSPECTED mastermind in the kidnapping of a Malaysian businessman is planning to seek the government's protection, claiming that he has been hounded by threats from Manila policemen.

Marlon Lopera, 31, who was arrested after he was tagged as the brains behind the abduction early this month of Eric Tan Chin Yong, said he was willing to be the primary witness against five policemen from Manila Police District Kidnap Station 5 whom he had accused of pocketing P16 million of the P30 million ransom money recovered from him.

In an interview at his holding cell, Lopera alleged that he has been receiving veiled threats from the policemen since he was taken into custody. "I would like to be under the witness protection program. I am ready to face any criminal charges. I am also a victim," he said.

Lopera claimed that on March 7, at around 11:00 p.m., he was in the Victoria Mansion in Ermita with P16 million in cash stored in a suitcase given to him by Edelbin Marcellanes, Tong's secretary.

A group of policemen, led by Senior Insp. Peter Hermino, arrested and placed him, Fellmardo Gonzales, and his 17-year-old nephew, under arrest for kidnapping Tong, he said. The other policemen were PO2 Ernesto Brooks, Intelligence Officer 1 Jeffrey Ilustrisimo and PO2 Rommel Gumapac.

Lopera alleged the policemen momentarily lost interest in Hermino when they saw the money, adding that they stuffed some of it in their waistbands.

Gonzales alleged it was Hermino who told him separately not to talk about the incident. He also enumerated Lopera here as informant in the kidnapping and tagged Marcellanes as the mastermind, while he executed the plan to extort money from the trader.

Hermino has denied the charges against them.

Wrong info about envoy Lopez

MIGUEL L. Lopez, son of ambassador to Japan Marcelo Lopez, took exception to my comments in this space on Thursday that his father requested the Department of Foreign Affairs permission to reevacuate the entire embassy staff to Tokyo because of the nuclear threat there.

"There [was] no such request from the ambassador," the young Lopez said.

Ambassador did suggest the voluntary repatriation of embassy family members and dependents, but not his staff.

"Manggagalit ... may kabahuhan! Iyan din sa Japan, mahirap ako [As long as we have compassion] here in Japan, I will remain here]," Miguel Lopez quoted his father as saying.

In that case, I got the wrong information about Ambassador Lopez for which I apologize.

• • •

Rice smuggling has shifted from the Cebu port to the ports of Davao and Cagayan de Oro, my Customs sources say.

The same sources say the last case of rice smuggling at the Cebu port was in December 2010.

A veteran who was in the good graces of the Arroyo administration is allegedly behind rice smuggling activities in Davao and Cagayan de Oro, according to my spies.

• • •

The National Food Authority (NFA) is scheduled to bid out 800,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam to farmers' cooperatives.

But my sources say only 40,000 metric tons will go to the farmers. The remaining 800,000 metric tons, the sources say, have been conveyed by a Chinese businessman.

Dante "Tan" Canlas, the NFA administrator, who was appointed to the grains agency on account of his integrity, knows about this?

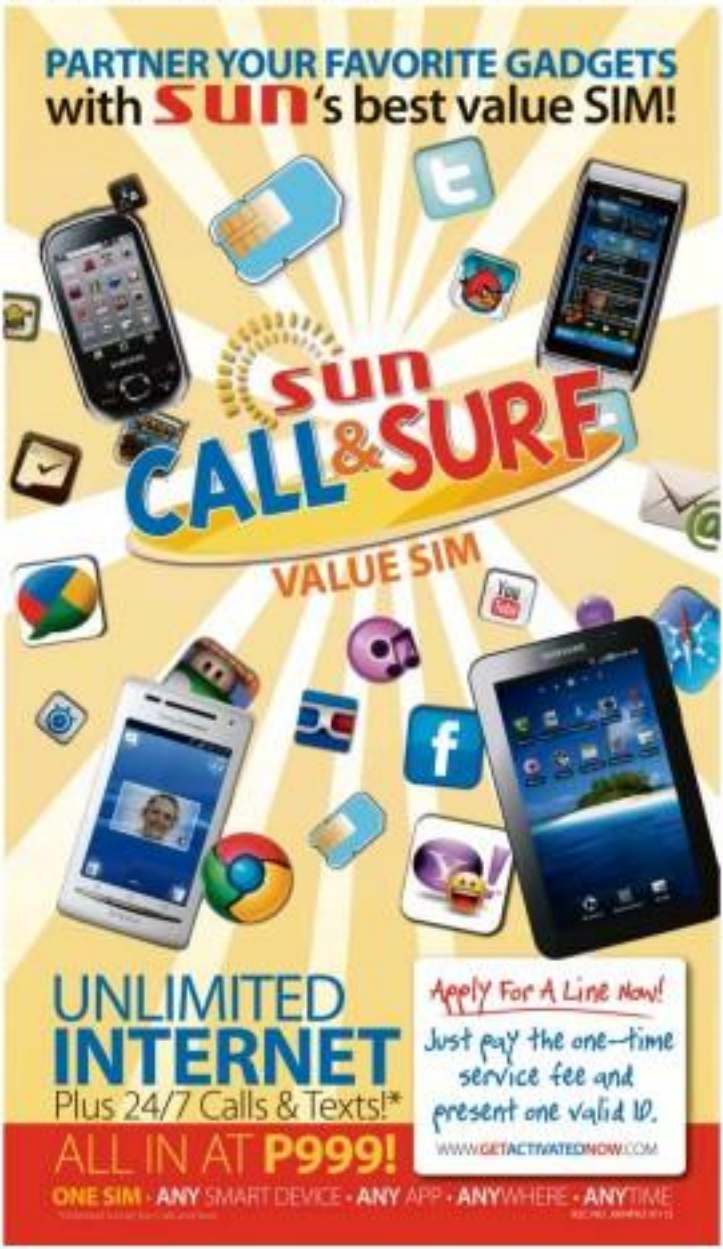
METROBRIEFS

Marikina gets ready for Big One

MARIKINA Mayor Del de Guzman yesterday assured residents that the city is ready if and when a major earthquake occurs on the West Valley fault line that supposedly traverses Barangays Fortune, Parang, Malanday, Tumana, Palanca and Marikina Heights. De Guzman said that having experienced a calamity like Tropical Storm "Ondoy" that wrought destruction in the city and the rest of the eastern metropolis, its residents are somewhat prepared. He said the city has identified its disaster response campaign following a recent warning of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology that the West Valley Fault System (formerly Marikina fault) may move any time in the future. De Guzman said agencies like the Bureau of Fire in Marikina and the city's emergency response team, Rescue 161, have started facilitating regular earthquake drills in schools and government buildings. —Alexis Corbito

Zen landscaping workshop

A SEMINAR-workshop on Zen landscaping will be conducted by Bonsai Nursery & Landscape, 5, Manila from March 23-27 at Metro Point Arts, Wing Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Classes will be held from 1-5 p.m. The short course covers styles, identification of plants and other materials, estimates, design tools, plant propagation techniques, hardscape and maintenance. Shades, handtools, materials and entry landscape will be provided, as well as a certificate at the end of the workshop. Advance registration is required at least three days before the workshop by the proponents of materials. See Lisa Mirilla at Room 868, Manila Seedling Bank from 9-5 p.m. For other details, call 435-3479/929-1885 or 897-EXO-1352, or e-mail mirillaglaiza@yahoo.com.ph.



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Kimono Kan
3rd Floor The Block

Kimono Kan has been synergizing with unique menu creations and authentic Japanese dishes that have captivated the Filipino palate. The Kimono Kan promises "Enticingly Japanese. For less", captured the very essence of this restaurant serving impeccabled and authentic Japanese treats without burning a hole in its discriminating diners' pockets.

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3rd Floor The Block

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SM CITY NORTH EDSA

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibanez

UN chief warns Bahrain after protests crackdown

MANAMA—UN chief Ban Ki-moon has warned Bahrain that its crackdown on antigovernment protesters might be breaking international law after his human rights chief spoke of "shocking and illegal" abuses.

But called King Hamad on Thursday to express his "deepest concerns" about the use of force, which allegedly includes security forces preventing doctors from treating injured protesters in the tiny Gulf state.

The secretary general "expressed his deepest concern over reports of excessive and indiscriminate use of force by the security forces and police in Bahrain against unarmed civilians, including allegedly against medical personnel," a UN statement said.

He also "noted that such actions could be in breach of international humanitarian and human rights law."

The UN chief spoke out following a bloody crackdown on Shiite-led protesters by the US-backed Sunni Muslim rulers. Bahrain is home to the US Fifth Fleet.

The violence in the resource-kingdom has alarmed Washington and sparked furious condemnation from Iran, Shiite leaders in Iraq and the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon.

Valerie Amos, the UN's deputy secretary general for humanitarian affairs, earlier urged security forces "to refrain from excessive use of force, and to respect medical facilities and ensure the treatment of wounded persons."

UN rights chief Navi Pillay earlier Thursday said any laboured by the security forces of hospitals and medical facilities was a "blatant violation of international law."

"There are reports of arbitrary arrests, killings, beatings of protestors and of medical personnel, and of the takeover of hospitals and medical centers by various security forces," she said.

"This is shocking and illegal conduct."

Dissidents had been rounded up at gunpoint in midnight raids and armed police stood outside Manama's main hospital on Thursday amid reports the authorities were beating doctors and denying treatment to the wounded.

Unbowed, the Shiite-led opposition vowed to press on with "peaceful" demonstrations, undeterred by the deadly military force against them.

"We will not give up to the army," said Shiite cleric Sheikh Ali Salman, the head of Al-Wefaq association. "We insist on the peaceful aspect of our activities and we shall not be dragged into ... confrontations."

The opposition rallied for fresh protests "within the pearling areas" rather than out on the streets after Muslim weekly prayers on Friday and for its sit-in on Saturday.

Fresh clashes erupted in at least one Shia village outside the capital, after five people were killed on Wednesday when security forces crushed a month-old predominantly Shia sit-in at Manama's Pearl Square.

Five hard-line Shiite activists and one Sunni dissident were arrested after the army imposed a curfew on parts of Manama using its powers under newly imposed martial law.

Bahrain's military confirmed it had arrested a number of people for crimes including sedition, murder and having contact with foreign states. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Leaked cable on bribes sets off furor in India

NEW DELHI—India's Parliament erupted in outrage on Thursday over a report of a US diplomatic cable that described insiders in the governing Congress Party showing off sheafs of money and boasting of paying bribes to ensuring lawmakers to secure passage of a critical 2008 vote on a landmark civilian nuclear deal between India and the US. The revelations, contained in a July 10, 2008, cable obtained by WikiLeaks, portray a large, at-out effort by the Congress Party to win a confidence vote in Parliament that could have toppled the wobbly coalition government and doomed the nuclear deal. According to the cable, written five days before the critical vote, a political associate to an influential Congress Party lawmaker told a US embassy diplomat that one small regional political party had already been paid millions of dollars in bribes for support. *New York Times-News Service*

Need for retirement age to keep rising seen

PARIS—Retirement ages in advanced economies will have to rise more than current life planned if countries hope to control the increase in costs caused by aging populations, a global economic organization warned on Thursday. Angel Gurria, secretary-general of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, said more "fiscally and socially responsible" measures would be needed to avoid "a resurgence of old-age poverty in the future." He added, "This risk is heightened by growing earnings inequality in many countries, which will feed through into greater inequality in retirement." *New York Times-News Service*

Immigrant detentions draw international fire

IMMIGRATION enforcement in the United States is plagued by unjust treatment of detainees, including inadequate access to lawyers and insufficient medical care, said by the executive arm of prison-style detention, the human rights unit of the Organization of American States said on Thursday.

The group, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, named Dante Negro as a report that also took aim at a federal program that allows municipal and state law enforcement officials to enforce federal immigration laws. The report said the government had failed to ensure that local police officers were not singling out people by race or ethnicity in targeting illegal immigrants on the pretext of investigating crimes.

The commission recommended that the federal government cancel the program, known as 287(g).

While many of the findings reiterated criticisms that have been made by immigrant advocates and others, the report appeared to be the most comprehensive review of American immigration enforcement in recent years by an international body of the organization's stature.

The commission, based in Washington, has no enforcement powers, but it has considerable moral authority and a record of cooperation by member countries, including the US.

The 126-page report was based on hearings and research that began in 2005, including visits in July 2009 by a team of lawyers assigned to six detention centers in Arizona and Texas.

However, the Obama administration has begun a major overhaul of the detention system. NYTIMES

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Cornie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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BOP ends February with $133-M deficit

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
March 18, 2011
43.700

STOCK MARKET
March 18, 2011
▲ 22.5

Stocks end 4-day slide

Bangko Sentral still sees surplus for 2011

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE COUNTRY'S balance of payments (BOP) ended in a deficit in February as outflow of foreign currencies, largely accounted for by payments by the government of its dollar-denominated debts, exceeded the inflows.

Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the BOP deficit amounted to $133 million in February, 6.4 percent more than the deficit of $125 million registered in the same month last year.

"The February [BOP] deficit was due largely to payment of maturing foreign exchange obligations by the national government," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters yesterday.

He said the BOP position would likely bounce back and stay in the positive territory in the months ahead as succeeding maturing obligations for the year were less than those in February.

"The [BOP deficit in February] was not enough to reverse the trend in the cumulative position for the first two months of 2011 was still at a surplus of $1.47 billion," the central bank chief pointed out.

The $1.47 billion surplus in the first two months was higher by 32 percent than the $1.11-billion surplus registered in the same period last year.

Tetangco said the BSP still expected the BOP to be in a surplus for the entire 2011. He said remittances and foreign portfolio investments were expected to drive the inflow of dollars and offset foreign currencies going to the country this year.

The BOP is a closely watched economic indicator, it surplus in the BOP adds to the country's total reserves of currencies, or the gross international reserves (GIR), which determine its ability

B2/B4

Credit Suisse sees PH economy growing 4.6% in 2011

By Raoul W. Dorotiga

FINANCIAL SERVICES firm Credit Suisse raised its estimate for Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2011 to 4.6 percent from 4 percent to reflect stronger-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2010.

However, the Zurich-based firm said it would monitor the immediate effects of the calamity in Japan on Philippine exports, considering that the ravaged country was a major market.

GDP, the country's total output of goods and services, grew 7.1 percent in October-December last year, helping succeed growth to rise 3.7 percent—the highest since the Macoy administration.

The government itself is aiming at a growth rate of between 7 and 8 percent this year.

Fundamentally we do not see any reason to be more optimistic on growth prospects and one growth expectations, reasons of the low cost of consumer continues," Credit Suisse said.

"We would also watch out for any near-term headwind from the recent calamity in Japan given that it is a leading export destination for Philippine exports even though a good chunk of exports to Japan are electronic products, which typically are low value-added," it added.

Latest data from the National Statistics Office showed that as of mid-January, Japan received the third-biggest or 14 percent of outbound shipments from the Philippines in terms of value.

Credit Suisse noted that as a percentage of GDP, total exports

B2/B4

Benguet Corp. gets breather from debts to pursue projects

Notices of credit default withdrawn

By Kaa T. Dalvanides

BENGUET CORP. announced yesterday that majority of its creditor banks withdrawn notices of default, giving the miner/conglomerate some breathing space to pursue various ongoing mining activities, a company official said.

"We can devote more time and resources to improving operations," Benguet CEO Benito A. Claravall said in a phone interview.

Among Benguet's projects, the four-year gold mine in Benguet province is already productive. While production is presently smaller 50 to 175 ounces of gold a month, selling the rollout noted to the Bureau General ng Philippines gives the company regular revenues. Benguet is preparing to improve production in Acupan.

The company also wanted to see the Rio Grid nickel mine in Zambales province opened next, Claravall said.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Benguet disclosed a letter from Philippine National Bank stating "in our capacity as trustee in the mortgage that substitutes dated Dec. 22, 1993, by and between Benguet Corp. and PNB Trust Banking Group, we have received notices from the creditors of the company, holding 75.0 percent of debt papers, that they have withdrawn their respective notices of default to the company."

"Moreover, the majority creditors, which had previously issued written instructions to the trustee to declare the secured obligations covered by the mortgage that had matured or due and payable, have ceased to be creditors of the company after having sold their debt papers to Benguet Corp."

"As a consequence, PNB Trust Banking Group, as trustee, no longer has the mandate of the majority creditors to declare the secured obligations of the company to be due and payable and hereby withdraws the notice(s) of default issued to Benguet Corp. last July 24, 2000."

On March 11, Benguet said in a statement sent via e-mail and also posted on the Philippine Stock Exchange website that it had brought back "a substantial portion" of its debts.

Benguet said that it intended to fully settle its debts before the year ended.

"This development augurs well for the implementation of the various ongoing projects of the company," said Benguet president and CEO Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez.

For analysts, Vista Land is top choice

ANALYSTS AT Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia (CLSA) say the share price of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. is likely to rise to as 72 percent as the company undertakes aggressive expansion plans over the next three years.

In a disclosure yesterday, top CLSA analysts also recommended the company as their top investment choice in the property sector for 2011.

Vista Land's projects range from the low-cost to high-end segments of the real estate market.

"[CLSA] sees some strong growth prospects for Vista Land in the coming growth surge, its unrivalled land bank, strong brand equity and numerous residential developments around the country," Vista Land said in a statement.

CLSA research analysts Ian Weinrauch and Alfred Ty made the recommendation in a recent report.

The company said Weinrauch had recently predicted Vista Land's share price would see a 36-percent rise after the May 2010 elections.

During the presidential campaign, MD share price performance was closely correlated with results of the opinion polls," Weinrauch was quoted as saying.

Vista Land's share prices tracked the performance of de Guzmán, Senator Manny Villar in opinion polls during the campaign period last year.

Villar was, at one point, the front runner in the presidential race.

From a post-election low of P1.54 a share, Vista Land's share price surged to P2.68 last year. It has since weakened, tracking the market's performance.

In its March 9 report entitled "A Unique Buying Window" CLSA said the company's weakness would be a good opportunity to invest.

Paolo G. Montecillo

Cebu Pacific profit up 112% in 2010

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PROFIT OF listed Cebu Air Inc., operators of budget carrier Cebu Pacific, rose 112.5 percent in 2010 as it continued more passengers and chipped higher fares than ever.

In a disclosure yesterday, Cebu Pacific said its profit increased to P9.92 billion for the full year, from P4.671.268 billion at the end of 2009.

This came as consolidated revenues grew 24.8 percent to P29.09 billion from the previous year's P23.31 billion, "driven by the increase in the number of passengers and higher average fares."

Expenses, meanwhile, grew at a slower pace of 12.4 percent to P22.64 billion from P20.15 billion in 2009. This came about despite the "the capacity in total capacity year-on-year and higher aviation fuel prices in 2010 compared to 2009."

As a result, the company's consolidated operating income totaled P6.45 billion—a 1,181.0-percent increase year-on-year.

The company said its consolidated assets also rose 40 percent in the past year to P49.94 billion from P35.32 billion in 2009 as it added more aircraft to its fleet.

In the last quarter of 2010 alone, the company took delivery of three new Airbus A320 aircraft for the expansion of its local and regional route network.

Cebu Pacific flew 10.7 million passengers last year—a 21-percent growth year-on-year, about 2 million of these passengers took international flights.

This year, the airline expects to fly another 12 million passengers—about 12.14 percent higher than in 2010.

Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance Gokongwei earlier said the company would be able to handle the additional traffic due to the delivery of five brand-new Airbus A320 aircraft within the year.

Given its higher profit, the company announced a cash dividend payout of P1 a share for its shareholders on record as of April 14. The company also declared a special dividend of P1 a share to be taken out of the company's unrestricted, retained earnings.

The payment date for both dividends will be on May 12.

Cebu Pacific shares yesterday climbed 0.40 percent, tracking the performance of the main index.

Alsons posts 35% jump in 2010 profit

By Amy R. Borres

THE AGUSTINIA-led Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc. posted a 35-percent surge in its net income in P470-million, due mainly to higher prices and increased consumption of electricity in 2010.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Alsons disclosed that Tomas I. Alcantara reported that revenues rose to P12.71 billion last year from P12.46 billion in 2009 following increased energy fees from electricity sales subsidiaries that even supplying electricity to the Mindanao grid.

Also contributing to the improved revenues was the higher consumption of electricity and sales by locations at the Lima Technology Center in Lipa, Batangas.

The higher net income in 2010 resulted in an earnings per share of 6 centavos as against the previous year's EPS of 4.4 centavos.

Alcantara said he was optimistic that the company's revenues would further improve this year given the fact that Alsons' core income comes mainly from sales of its power subsidiaries' energy and utility operations.

In the same disclosure, Alcantara added that the company's board of directors approved the reclassification of 10 million unissued common shares with a par value of P1 each into 8.8 billion redeemable preferred voting shares that will have a par value of 1 centavo each.

"Once the reclassification is approved, the company's authorized capital stock will remain at P12 billion but the number of its common shares would be 11.945 billion, of which 6.291 billion are issued and outstanding," Alcantara said.

BOP ends February with . . .

From page B1

ity to pay external debts, pay for imported goods and services and to engage in other commercial transactions with the rest of the world.

Latest documents from the central bank showed that the GIR stood at $65.95 billion at the end of February, as of end-March.

The country's growing reserves of foreign currencies was cited by credit rating agencies in upgrading their views on the Philippines' credit standing. They said the rising amount of GIR was improving the country's ability to service its foreign currency-denominated liabilities.

In November, Standard & Poor's raised the country's credit rating from three to two notches below investment grade.

In January Moody's Investor Service adjusted its credit outlook on the country from "stable" to "positive." A stable outlook indicates the probability of an upgrade in credit rating within a year. The Philippines' credit rating with Moody's is three notches below investment grade.

Credit Suisse sees PH . . .

From page B1

to Japan were smaller for the Philippines...as it prevents...them for some of its peers such as Malaysia and Singapore.

Credit Suisse said it continued to support sound slippage in Malaysia's 2011 fiscal position despite the 2010 fiscal deficit rising in line with the government target.

Malaysia may is hoping to reduce the budget deficit to P500 billion this year from P514.4 billion in 2010.

"The 2010 target was met by unexpected spending in order to compensate for lower-than-targeted tax revenues," Credit Suisse said. "But there are concrete efforts have been taken to raise the 2011-GDP ratio, so the underlying growth will need to be scrutinized."

The company said that if the government wanted to meet the 2011 deficit target, it would need to spend at a much slower pace of around 6 percent (versus last year's rate) than the targeted 11.7 percent, it added.

Stocks end . . .

From page B1

poor US housing data sent jitters across world markets.

"Under-performer right PLDT [Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT)] saw the second most active, headed to it clinched a modest five days slide which equivalent 11.28 percent off the market cap," local brokerage firm Access Capital Equities said in a statement.

Dennis G. Aberasturi

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

Wrong trade-offs, bad governance

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

GOVERNANCE DIVIDED a series of trade-offs, making the wrong trade-offs often means bad governance for a struggling country like ours.

The other day, the Congressional Oversight Committee on Price and Means held a hearing on the proposed Customs and Tariff Modernization Act (CTMA). The CTMA seeks to replace the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

This is an important but complex undertaking. It took six years to elevate the artificially needed Anti-Smuggling Bill (ASB), which has not even been passed. We hope that the CTMA is not rushed without the appropriate, thorough study it deserves.

Primary

The Alyansa Agribuhayan (AA) is of the position that the ASB should take priority over the CTMA. There is pressure to pass the CTMA because of a desire to comply with the provisions of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC). The RKC is an intergovernmental agreement to facilitate import procedures to boost international trade.

But there should be more pressure to pass the ASB first. President Noynoy Aquino has said that before one gives a solution, one should know the root problem.

The Act for agriculture, and the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) for industry, have both stated repeatedly that smuggling is a much bigger problem than trade facilitation.

If Noy himself has often said that fighting smuggling is one of his top priorities. Smuggling is causing people to lose their jobs, thus causing more poverty. It is depriving our government of more than P130 billion in annual revenues, which are taxed badly for necessary government services.

It is destroying our agriculture, and not industries.

Smuggling must therefore be addressed immediately. Pass an ASB with teeth, facilitating import procedures may in fact make smuggling easier.

In previous Senate hearings on the RKC, both the AA and the FPI were assured by the senators that the RKC treaty would permit some of its provisions to be implemented in three to five years. This would give adequate time for the proposed anti-smuggling measures to the ASB to take effect first.

Unless the CTMA, which now intends to include all the RKC provisions, makes the three to five years timetable still possible, CTMA will (unwittingly) become a pro-smuggling measure!

Trade-offs

If Congress insists on passing the CTMA before the ASB, then at least three ASB provisions should be included in the CTMA. So far, some influential Congressmen have expressed strong opposition to these provisions.

The first problem is that the Bureau of Customs (BOC) lacks the resources and expertise to successfully file and prosecute anti-smuggling cases. ASB proposes that private sector lawyers be allowed to assist BOC in both the filing and prosecution of these cases. In this way, **the cases will be stronger and the prosecution more successful.**

The second problem is that the BOC often already misinterpretation because of its erroneous interpretation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) concept of "transaction value" as the basis of import valuation. The ASB proposes a clear procedure for disallowing a grossly undervalued "transaction value" using a WTO compliant method, that countries like India are adopting. This is critical to ensure much of our smuggling today is done through undervaluation using "transaction value" as the means.

The third problem is that the BOC prosecutors and subalterns are not subjected to oversight functions by the private sector. Thus, transparency and accountability are sorely lacking. The ASB proposes creation a government-private sector oversight body to address this. This was previously done, but was abolished. Many believe this was because it had caught "big fish", and was too successful against smuggling.

Recommendation

We recommend that Congress pass ASB first before the CTMA. Before passing it we go into ex, let us put Filipino first. Please, that if for some reason the CTMA is passed first, then at least the three ASB provisions identified here must be included in the CTMA.

Making the wrong trade-offs by passing the CTMA without these three provisions will be a clear indication of bad governance.

The author is chair of Agrinvest, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. He invites his suggestions, email agrinvest_phil@yahoo.com or Mobile 0920 9022 7321

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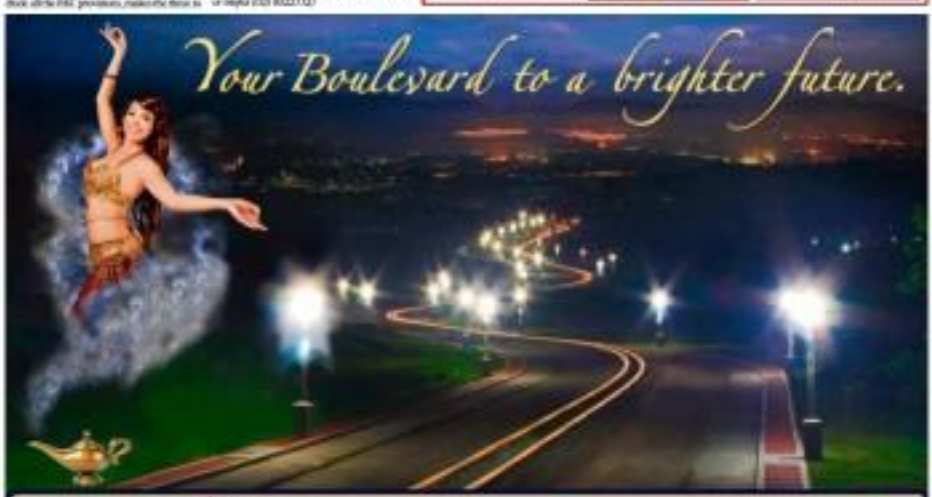

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Former Dean of the College of Commerce, University of Santo Tomas
Professor Emeritus, University of Santo Tomas
Member of the Third Order of St. Dominic
Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Awardee, highest medal awarded to the laity by the Papacy
Outstanding member of Pi Lambda Theta,
the most selective national honor society of educators
KAMAMARANAN Awardee, Most Outstanding Cagayano
Outstanding member of the UST Piy Gamma Mu
Founding member of the Nuestro Señora de Piat
Fulbright Scholar, Foreign Student Scholar, AGORA Awardee

She has peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 86.

Her loving sisters **Josefinas** (†), **Lily**, **Araceli** (†), **Marie Cruz** (†), **Maja** and loving brothers, **Robustiano** (†), **Hector** (†), **Guillermo** (†), nephews, nieces, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the
Green Meadows Christ the King, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 22, 2011
at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to **Our Lady of Piat Parish.**

MODESTO ANGELES LLAMAS, D.M.D.

(November 4, 1931 - March 15, 2011)

We, his family, request the readers to join us in praying for his eternal repose to heaven.

His body lies in state at The Ascension Chapels
by Arlington, Araneta Avenue cor. Doña St., Quezon City.

Funeral Mass and the cremation will be on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.
at the Arlington Crematory, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

We also express our profound gratitude to those who gave their condolences, love and support, especially to the Oca Family; and his friends in The Seamen's Hospital and the Associated Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP).

Beloved Wife: **Josefina**
Loving Children: **Butch, Ted, Cora, Aurora and Jose**
Grandchildren: **Adelle, Miguel, Aya, Gabriel, Ali, Ilka, Matthew and Nicole**

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
— Matthew 10:39

Message of Thanks

Our sincerest gratitude.
From the Family of the late
JOSE LIRIO REYES
of Sabanan Village and Cantilang, Cagayan
who peacefully joined his Creator and his beloved wife BEATRICE DIAZ REYES
on the 28th of February, 2011

"Deliver me, Lord,
my man, God from my cruels,
the you I depend since birth."
Psalm 71:1

Dr. Ricardo Mojica Marquez

of Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite

Interred to God his Creator on March 12, 2011 at the age of 79

He is survived by his beloved wife Adelaida Jasmin Marquez; children Ricardo Jr., Ferdinand, Pearl, Christian and Jeremiah and families.

His remains lie in state at 197 Legaspi Street, Kalantia, Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite.

Requiem Mass will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at the Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church, Interment follows at Divine Memorial Park in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite.

"For thou not seest, nor hast not heard, nor has it much or discerned on mean what God has prepared for those who love Him." - 1 Corinthians 2:9

Call us, inquire Classifieds:
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• Makati: 892-5575; 811-4061; 811-4704 • Malate: 526-0013 • Mangaldan: 605-2020; 605-2026

CLASSIFIEDS

BIR's ASPE leads NREA meet on taxes, March 30

TOPNOTCH ITS members for the period of filing of individual and corporate income tax returns up to April 15, 2011, the National Real Estate Association (NREA) is modifying its business meeting on taxation on Wed., March 30, 2011 at 1 p.m.-5 p.m., at the Makati Sports Club, J. P. Laurel St., Makati City, as announced by association chairman Ka'Pepe Montalbo.

According to NREA president Marissa DeVilla, CIR, and Dep. Comm. Nelson M. Aspe of Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) will be guest of honor and speaker. Aspe, an honorary member of NREA, is also expected to tell the audience of new information and thrusts of the government's revenue collection campaign this year.

DeVilla also said that Director Aspe will field questions from NREA members in an open forum, following his speech to clarify tax issues, including on the recently-issued and now controversial Revenue Regulations 2-2011, requiring the filing of Annual Information Return, along with the income tax returns, for certain individuals, estates or trusts. This was meant to deal with opposition from businessmen, including legislators, who claimed that the tax requirement is unconstitutional, among other things.

Real estate practitioners have also experienced hard times as the government has incentivized to participate in the Real Estate Investment Trusts, as well for projects such as mass housing, under the 2011 Investments Priorities Plan.

"Lastly, NREA, along with other real estate professional groups, has petitioned concerned legislative agencies for them to be allowed to raise the current price ceiling for low-cost and house, whose sale transfer should be exempted from the payment of percent value-added taxes," Del Mar pointed out.

"We are holding this business meeting on location, as NREA's gesture of support to the investor-generating program of the BIR and of this administration," she added.

Trustee and event chair Cosmic M. Angeles added that members and non-members who will attend this business meeting will get a 4-hour CPE credit.

For purchasers on the business meeting, please call 910-0402 or 913-0853.

INDUCTION OF NEW SHFC BOARD MEMBERS
Vice President of the Philippines and concurrent Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Jejomar C. Binay, Jr. (at fourth left), recently inducted to office Ms. Ana R. Oliveros (2nd from left), the newly appointed President of the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC), as its Officer-in-Charge-Chairman of the SHFC Board of Directors. SHFC implements the Community Mortgage Program, a home financing scheme which enables informal settlers, organized into cooperative associations, to avail of a loan for the purchase of the property they are presently occupying or to where they may choose to relocate to. Also shown, who took their oath of office as members of the SHFC Board, were (extreme left) Atty. Ricardo Nicanor C. Jacinto and Rodolfo Ma. A. Penteroda, representing the private sector.

People, Events & Products

DepED, Memo Plus Gold and PBN celebrate brain power in the Bicol Region

EXCITEMENT WAS high and minds were treated at the Memo Plus Gold Big Challenge Grand Finals held at the Saga Regent Hotel and Convention Center last Feb. 19. Two students from the Philippine Science High School in the Bicol Region Campus dominated the educational quiz finals. Said students, Christoper Jan Gandullas and Sergio Clay Tee Jr. bested, third and fourth year students gave their gratitude to Memo Plus Gold for helping them enhance their brain power during the event. The students were coached by Mathematics teacher Arnel Baes.

Supervisor Grade during the event included Leonard Bonora, president of Davaoden Enterprises Corp., the exclusive distributor of Memo Plus Gold in the country, and Dr. Desiderio Santos, Director III, officer-in-charge of the Assistant Regional Director of DepEd for Region V.

Apart from the thrilling brain competition, heads were bobbing as the guests were entertained by the Iriga Band of Musicians. Polytechnic University of Iriga Cheer Dance Squad, Bicol University Iriga Cheer Dance Squad, and fourth year students gave their gratitude to Memo Plus Gold for helping them enhance their brain power during the event. The students were coached by Mathematics teacher Arnel Baes.

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Apart from the thrilling brain competition, heads were bobbing as the guests were entertained by the Iriga Band of Musicians,

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LEGAL NOTICE

(Extrajudicial Settlement)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **EMMANUEL M. MAMOT** was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 413, Page 82, Book II, Series of 2011 before Notary Public Atty. Russell D. Belmonte of Makati City.

(Pub. Mar. 5, 12 & 19, 2011)

RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC.

BYPASS ROAD, SILANG, CAVITE

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT 8001 SHARES AT AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC. (RGCI) WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT SHARES AT A PUBLIC AUCTION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BY-LAWS, FOR NON-PAYMENT OF THE MONTHLY DUES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS.

A01569 A00731 A00139 A00138 A00585 A00356 A00344 A00688 A00671
A00419 A00447 A00574 A00575 A00644 A00664 A00675 A00718 A00795
A01091 A01103 A01358 A01631 A01771 A01955 A01934 A01944 A01988
A01918 A01933 A00895 A01965 A01911 A01910 A01926 A01152 A01515
A01403 A01918 A01435 A01588 A01284 A01695 A01932 A00987 A01505
A00894 A01278 A01171 A01542 A01706 A00836 A01478 A01787 A01980
A01918 A01926 A00933 A01926 A01771 A01754 A00883 A00947 A01575

B00008 B00089 B00045 B00069 B00024 B00386 B00113 B00143 B00437
B00467 B00468 B00462 B00039 B00009 B00030 B00422

C00136 C00187 C00253 C00082 C00115

THE AUCTION DATE IS SET ON APRIL 14, 2011 AT 10:00 O'CLOCK AM AT THE TEE (RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC., SILANG, CAVITE. ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROLANDO S. BORJA
CORPORATE SECRETARY

(Pub. March 19, 26 & April 2, 2011)

DAR

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) through the General Appropriations Act of 2011 intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Three Hundred Ninety Six Thousand Nine Hundred Only (₱2,396,900.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the procurement of services to conduct pre-land acquisition activities, thus, interested bidders are invited to submit their sealed bids for the following:

Item No.	Description	Quantity
1	Pre-Land Acquisition Activities	1 Lot

2. The DAR invites bids for the procurement of the 1 Lot type indicated. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly Section II on Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding in accordance with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation's Loan Procurement Bidding procedures and Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

4. Bidders should be licensed and accredited by the Association of Landowners, Cooperatives and Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Enterprises or Partnership, or corporate organizations with at least one (1) Licensed Real Estate Appraiser or Accounting Practitioner among its officers of the Philippines, and its officers, or organizations, or a majority of the owned or controlled by Filipino citizens or Philippines to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 8435 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Department of Agrarian Reform Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat's Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday during March 21, 2011.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders on the address below from March 21, 2011 upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱1,500.00)** and the method of payment shall be in the form of cash or manager's check payable to DAR.

A max also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the DAR, provided that bidders shall pay the Non-Refundable Fee for **The Procurement of Pre-Land Acquisition Activities (₱1,500.00)** for the Bidding Documents together with the submission of their bids.

7. The DAR will hold a Pre-Bid Conference (not mandatory) to be held on April 07, 2011 at 10:00 AM, DARS Boardroom, 4th Floor, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

8. Bids must be delivered on or before 9:00 a.m. of May 5, 2011 (Monday). Bids submitted before May 5, 2011 shall be delivered to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Finance, Management and Administration, DAR, Quezon City. Bids will be opened immediately at that time. Foreign-Assisted Projects Office Building, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids submitted on May 5, 2011 after the deadline shall be returned unopened. Late bids, bids not accompanied by the prescribed forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 19.

9. Bid opening shall follow immediately on May 5, 2011 (Monday), 2011 and shall be at the DARS Boardroom. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's or their authorized representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

10. The DAR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

11. For further information, please contact:

Ms. Lilian P. Encinas-Javier Ms. Gloria Juliano
DAR Secretariat
DAR Main Office, Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax: (632) 925-8606
Tele-fax: (632) 927-1822/928-8265
www.dar.gov.ph

(Sgd.) FELIX RAMY A. FILLAMENA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform

(Pub. March 19, 2011)

CENTRAL LAGUNA STATE UNIVERSITY

Governor Leonardo A. Calderon Avenue, Barangay IV-A
City of Sta. Cruz, Province of Laguna, Philippines 4009
Tel. Nos. (049) 536-6001 to 05 loc. 109; Telefax: (049) 536-6001 loc. 109
E-mail Address: csu@info.com.ph; Website: http://www.csu.edu.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Central Laguna State University (CSU), invites eligible contractors to participate in the bidding for the following projects:

Name of Project	Supply and Delivery of Clinical Psychological Laboratory Equipment
Location	Main Campus, Barangay IV-A, Sta. Cruz, Laguna
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	₱500,000.00
Source of Fund	CSU-CHED Grant for the year 2010
Contract Duration	Sixty (60) calendar days

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pre-qualification, post-qualification, and/or other criteria specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

The Schedule of Bids' activities are as follows:

Bid Activities	Schedule
1. Pre-Bid Conference	March 31, 2011, 2:00 PM
2. Deadline of Submission of Bids	March 30, 2011, 1:00 PM, Bids and Awards Committee Office
3. Opening of Bids	March 30, 2011, 2:00 PM, Bids and Awards Committee Office
4. Post-Qualification	April 1, 2011
5. Post-Qualification Activities	April 1, 2011, Bids and Awards Committee Office

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of **Five Hundred Pesos (₱500.00)** and the method of payment shall be in the form of cash or manager's check payable to CSU-Bids and Awards Committee. Bids may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the CSU, provided that bidders shall pay the Non-Refundable Fee for **The Procurement of Pre-Land Acquisition Activities (₱500.00)** for the Bidding Documents together with the submission of their bids.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, Manager's Check, bank draft of a reputable bank or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable bank equivalent to two percent (2%) of the total bid price. Surety Bond callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the Insurance Commission authorized to issue such security shall be accepted provided that it is callable upon demand, warranty against loss of ten percent (10%) of the Agreement Budget for Contract shall be automatically required of the successful bidder.

The Central Laguna State University reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

For more information, please contact:

THERESA L. ABELLA
BAC Chairman

(Pub. March 19, 2011)

FIRST LAGUNA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Lumban, Laguna
Tel. Nos. (049) 580-4478
Telefax: (049) 581-5088

INVITATION TO BID

The First Laguna Electric Cooperative, Inc., with principal office address at Brgy. Linein, Lumban, Laguna, invites all qualified bidders/security agencies to bid for its security services requirement.

All interested parties can secure bid documents from the FINAL Secretariat starting March 21, 2011 after payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000) Only (Php 1,000.00). Submission of sealed bids will be on March 25, 2011 (Tuesday), at 2:00 P.M., at FLECO Main Office, Brgy. Linein, Lumban, Laguna, wherein bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or its representatives.

BID BOND in either in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to two and a half percent (2.5%) of the total bid price. Foreign and domestic contractors that the required amount will be automatically disqualified to participate in the bidding. Likewise, bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted.

FLECO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPT BIDS DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) EMELYN C. ICARANGAL
FINAL Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) SVENGELITO S. SITOY
FINAL Acting General Manager

(Pub. March 19, 26 & April 2, 2011)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF CASINO FILIPINO-AMERICAN AND MECHANICAL GAMING TABLES

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) invites interested bidders to submit sealed bids for the supply and installation of Casino Filipino-American and Mechanical Gaming Tables for Casino Metro Manila and the Provincial areas.

Contract Description	Supply and Installation of Casino Filipino-American and Mechanical Gaming Tables
Contract Duration / Approved Budget	Three (3) Months / Four Million Pesos (₱4,000,000.00)
Source of Funds	Internally Sourced
Name of Bank	Philippine National Bank
Name of Account	PAGCOR
Account Number	3-1-1-0-1-0-0-0

How green is my Investment?

Tough times call for tough questions. On "green" (aka. sustainable) investments turn into "green" (aka. monetary) returns?

Even this early in its evolution global indications point to an optimistic ...aish for it. ...gaseo and go. And, in the Philippines, the country's first green residential condominium to be registered under the LEED(BC's LEED program is committed to make good on the promise. Arya Residences may broken ground in Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The LEED(BC) LEED program seeks to establish and promote common standards and technologies that have proven effective in sustainable building development and living conditions. In applying for the LEED certification goal of Gold, Arya Residences must integrate sustainability into every key aspect of its design and be monitored for compliance from design stage to actual tenant use. The high standards is what differentiates green-rated buildings worldwide and ensures their future viability.

Saving resources = Savings in costs. "If you think twice your air-conditioning units on day and night you might be paying in electricity what you'd expect to pay in rent," says Lindsay Orr, Chief Operating Officer of Jones Lang LaSalle Leechiu in the Philippines, global real estate consultants. Sunshen Arya Residences guarantees an average 14% reduction in energy costs vs. non green-rated residential buildings? "It's a no-brainer". Orr smiles. What saves you money saves the planet: the two towers' orientation, the shading ledges and balconies, and the many larger windows that allow enough light and ventilation to comfortably reduce energy use. Even the air-conditioning system that comes with every unit is an energy-saving appliance. The use of greywater systems, installed dual-flush and specially-designed fixtures equally reduce clean water use by 40%. Building efficiencies translate into lower maintenance fees.

Global standards = Global markets. According to the 2010 Asia Pacific Property Digest of Jones Lang LaSalle, recovering business confidence is waving up the property market in Asia Pacific with growing demand for middle to high end residential condominiums. In Metro Manila alone 20,000 new units are expected to be available over the next 5 years. While most of these are mid-market projects there remains a growing demand for larger (2-3 bedroom) luxury units particularly among the expatriate market, according to The Knowledge Report of Daniel's International. And they are looking for green. For the 2008 Cushman Global and Jones Lang LaSalle Global Survey on Corporate Real Estate and Sustainability, 80% of corporate real estate executives consider sustainability criteria in their location decisions. And green building certifications are always considered by 41%. Call it evolving corporate citizenship. Call it also improving the bottom line. For these reasons Arya Residences aims to be a truly "future-proof" investment. And a role model not only to be a true pioneer.

LEED Certification: Taking Green One Step Further

HOW GREEN IS YOUR GREEN?

Green features, green buildings, greenery – the value of "green" as a selling point has skyrocketed over the last few years, especially in the industry of real estate. Unfortunately, what it means to be a truly high performing green building has been diluted. To differentiate between casual claims and disciplined applications, organizations have begun to offer third-party evaluation and certification of green buildings. One of these is the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED Program, a rigorous rating system used worldwide to evaluate how green and sustainable a building has been constructed.

FROM CLAIM TO DEMONSTRATION

LEED applicants decide the level of green achievement they want to aim for in their development. Many office buildings in the country have chosen the entry-level LEED certification for the most building structure only, or Core & Shell. Arya Residences takes it a step further by constructing not just a plain green building, but one that delivers the benefits of sustainable living like energy and water savings. By delivering beyond basic requirements, Arya Residences raises the standard by which it will be rated. Since LEED uses a point system to determine the environmental excellence of a building, more points means a higher level of certification. Of the four levels a development can aim for – Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum – Arya Residences is the first residential building in the country aiming for Gold Certification.

AN INVESTMENT FOR YOU AND THE EARTH

According to LEED experts, people who invest in a resource efficient home like Arya Residences could reap the benefits in their investment in a number of ways. First, utility costs will be lower when a building's air-conditioning, light, and ventilation naturally function improved indoor quality through better ventilation and moisture. Interior finishes promotes health and well-being. Third, LEED certification is rapidly becoming a must for new properties. The USGBC website cites the number of LEED registered buildings in the Philippines has grown from 4 to 10 over a two-year period. LEED stamp of approval is an investor's guarantee that his property is one that is highly desirable in the local and global market.

NO COMPROMISES FOR THE EARTH AND YOUR LIFESTYLE

Arya Residences' goal is to surround a home that performs optimally, inside and out, giving its future residents a headstart to living a green and sustainable lifestyle. To achieve this, the developers of Arya Residences closely follow LEED's stringent sustainability standards. LEED certification is a world-trusted guarantee that the term "green" hasn't been applied to simply mean landscaping features or the latest color palette. For a greener development like Arya Residences, among its LEED certification at the Gold standard speaks of a higher level of commitment to the earth, its resources, and its future residents.

Discover what a LEED investment can mean for you by coming on an Arya's Jet for CEO GREEN, an open house at the Sales Pavilion. It's also your chance to catch the last few days of the extended Association Entertainment Package.

PROPERTY

Lito Cesar D. Magpiong

Fire-proof your properties

By Tonyo B. Salazar

THE RECENT earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan have caught the world's attention, including those of the Filipino public. Lest we forget, it is all to fire prevention month. The local media have been reporting recently of fires around Metro Manila and in the rest of the country that have claimed a number of lives and have reduced valuable property to ashes.

Inquirer Property taps the expertise of urban planners in-chief, Felino Palafox Jr., fire safety engineer Tay Hee Liong and the Bureau of Fire Protection for their advice to property owners and developers.

Part of Palafox's 60 recommendations in the disaster preparedness is the promotion of fireproof resistant measures including securing open spaces to check the spread of fire and designate evacuation centers.

Urban planning and development in general fire-spreading tools to include:

1 Identifying key disaster prevention spots in the context of fire prevention districts.

2 Developing effective use of property for the prevention of urban fire and disaster, as well as providing funds to make buildings fireproof and encourage joint undertaking of buildings.

3 Changing the source of domestic kerosene, wood, or gas to a less dangerous one in order to prevent fire in areas where wooden houses are built close together or still prevalent.

4 Drawing up a "Basic Plan for Urban Redevelopment Urban Renewal Plans" to serve as a master plan, and calling for concerted action by the public and private organizations concerned.

5 Undertaking various redevelopment projects in order to secure safe evacuation spaces and to improve living environments.

6 Informing the citizens of danger and through urban planning by methods which suit the individual characteristics of each area, improved firefighting (trouble spots in urban areas where wooden houses are built close together.

In 2000 Inquirer Property interviewed fire safety engineers Tay Hee Liong. He told a group of Filipino architects that "fire engineering" is a critical factor when designing "passive" and "active" fire protection systems for high-rises.

Liong, who has a science degree in building and fire safety engineering in the Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, stressed life safety, escape route design and early detection and warning systems as the most important considerations in "fire engineering" buildings. Strangely, he added, should be developed at the conceptual stages to contain fires, and for the effective evacuation of occupants under all breathe representing periods.

He said part of fire prevention and fire damage reduction would include:

• The construction of high rise buildings and towers incorporating fire and safety aspects during the planning stage in greater detail and depth.

• Exploring risks to a minimum and prioritizing the life safety aspects for buildings of greater heights, considering the fact that it may not be impractical and impossible to evacuate all occupants in times of emergencies.

• Knowing the keys to passive and active fire protection systems. For passive fire protection, fireboxes, compartmentation, safe egress and escape routes, as well as fire-resistant door sets. For active fire protection system, sprinkler systems, automatic fire detection and alarm systems, manual software programs, preventive maintenance and the presence of fire safety engineers or managers.

• Implementing criminal fire rules as precautionary measures to prevent the spread/spread of fire in a modern building. Once an office block or a hotel complex

Editor Cesar G. Mangosong

SCIENCE/HEALTH

2 epidemics raging among hungry, fat kids in poor countries—WHO

By Nirmala A. Pisharath
Contributor

NCDs will be the focus of global health policy discussions this year, leading to a debate of heads of state at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September

TWO EPIDEMICS are currently raging in poor countries—the all-too-familiar hunger and malnutrition and a more pernicious one, obesity, affecting 42 million children under 5 years old, 35 million of whom live in third-world countries like the Philippines.

Alarmed, the World Health Organization is calling for action to end the epidemic of child obesity by reducing marketing of unhealthy foods and nonalcoholic beverages to children.

WHO says children worldwide are exposed to marketing of foods high in fat, sugar or salt. And that increases the potential of younger generations developing noncommunicable diseases during their lives.

The WHO report says noncommunicable diseases already account for 60 percent of deaths worldwide, or more than 35 million people, with a majority of these deaths occurring in low and middle-income countries.

WHO officials cite poor diet as one of the four common causes of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and chronic lung diseases, leading to more than nine million premature deaths.

The coordinator of the WHO nutrition and prevention program, Dr. Tim Armstrong, says one of the risk factors, obesity, is a growing problem among children in low-income countries.

"Currently, there are 42 million children under the age of 5 who are overweight or obese," he says. "Thirty-five million of these 42 million are living in low- and middle-income countries and that is a huge issue ... as we look forward to how are we all deal with the escalating disease and burden that these overweight children as they become overweight adults will create."

Palanivelu Tesiliapa, director-general of health of Samoa, a small island state of 180,000 in the Pacific, adds that most of the population is fat and obesity is one of the major health problems. Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are now the leading cause of death among adults in Samoa and this is likely to get worse with alarming obesity among children.

"We are already very concerned because we have a very overweight and sick population from NCD to adults and now we are expecting to deal with pediatric problems," she says. "We have no way of competing with multinationals on the media with regard to advertisements and the influence that they impose on our children."

SPECIAL REPORT

WHO blames television advertising largely for the marketing of unhealthy foods. It says there is evidence advertisements influence children's food preferences, purchase requests and consumption patterns.

At the May 2010 World Health Assembly, member states endorsed a new set of recommendations on the marketing of foods and nonalcoholic beverages to children.

The recommendations call for national and international actions to limit children's exposure to marketing messages that promote foods high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, sugars or salt.

WHO says governments must lead the process through legislation involving harmful marketing practices directed toward children.

UN debate

NCDs will be the focus of global health policy discussions this year, leading to a debate of heads of state at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September.

Dr. Armstrong, who heads the WHO efforts in promoting healthy diet and physical education, told a news conference in January that recognition that advertising of junk foods and drink can encourage children to consume them, while advertising can also promote a healthy diet.

He led the WHO assembly last May to call on the UN health agency to draw up the marketing recommendations.

The WHO's 193 member states told it to work with the private sector as well as governments and civil society.

The recommendations aim to tackle both the frequency of advertising and its "power"—for instance the use of cartoons that appeal to children.

Multinational compliance

WHO officials consulted leading companies in the sector—Coca-Cola, Mexico's Grupo Bimbo, General Mills, Kellogg, Kraft, McDonald's, Sara, Nestlé, Pepsico, Unilever, and the World Federation of Advertisers and the World Federation of Advertisers.

The companies agreed to draw up a code of conduct and committed not to market unhealthy products to children under the age of 12, Armstrong said.

In some markets companies were living up to this pledge.

"There are other markets where pepsi companies are not adopting the same policies in terms of not advertising their products to children," he said.

Armstrong declined to name the companies or markets concerned but said the WHO had a sense that companies were not fulfilling their commitment in poor countries in the ways that they appeared to be in developed markets.

The different results underlined the importance of governments monitoring the implementation of any agreements reached with the industry.

Like tobacco, liquor

"The concept is that governments must lead this process," he said. It was up to governments to choose the best approach.

"Some people prefer to regulate a ban on advertising, others could agree adequate daily monitored self-regulation with industry, he said.

However's director-general of health, Dr. Ruvin Inge Lemee, said governments had a range of options and those recommendations were a first step.

Pressure on the companies to curb advertising and promotion of products of the products would grow in the same way as efforts to limit the consumption of tobacco and alcohol had done, he said.

(The author is chief executive of a think tank specializing in transforming social, political, cultural and historical trends into public policies and effective tactics. Comments are welcome at Michelle Pastor-Isreal, Business Consultants, e-mail: mlle2000@gmail.com.)

What to do when fallout blows over

By Charles E. Rubio

LET'S BE clear about one thing first: being more than 5,000 km away and like first that the prevailing wind in the area points northeast across the Pacific, there is a remote, if not an impossible probability that unhealthy levels of radioactive material spewing out from the badly damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan would ever reach our country.

But let us assume a cloud of radioactive particles did come blowing over our cities and towns (most probably unaware) for hours, days or even rather than a fleeting glance), what should one do to minimize its harmful effects?

Let us remember that a radioactive fallout does not come out of the sky like a gas and may not even fall.

These minute particles of radioactive debris can best be described as a fine sand carried by the wind. And because the wind direction varies at different heights above the ground, it would be hard to judge from where such fallout could be blown or could settle.

Four things

According to the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, there are four things that determine the amount of radiation reaching our body from a fallout: the time that has passed since the explosion; the length of time one is exposed to the fallout; the distance one is from the fallout; and lastly, the shielding between the person and the fallout.

One should realize that the level of radioactivity in a fallout decreases rapidly in the first hours after the dispersion.

In this regard it is best to stay in a shelter (could be a basement or any room that has no windows) and close opening (when outside) or could move the moment a fallout is reported to be approaching your area.

To keep radioactive dust or powder from getting inside, it is advised to shut all windows, outside doors and other openings. Turn off fans as well as air-conditioning systems that could bring in air from the outside.

Should you be caught outside the house, immediately seek shelter in any sturdy building or structure.

Take off clothing as well as any other outer covering (like mask, hat) and then, seal it in a plastic bag on one

remove. Bring this in case and in shielding some clothes may get rid of up to 90 percent of radioactive dust.

Immediately take a shower or wash with soap and water. Be sure to wash your hair thoroughly as this will remove any remaining radioactive dust.

Another factor that should be considered in distance from the strength of radiation reaching our body is much reduced the further one is from the fallout.

One should remember that radioactive particles deposited on the ground or on the skin cause burns. Swallowing or inhaling such materials is much more harmful.

Except for temporary nausea shortly after exposure, radiation illness develops slowly and it cannot be spread to other people like an infection.

Serious effects from radiation, but may appear after a few days to three weeks, may include a combination of loss of appetite, loss of appetite, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, sore throat, bleeding gums and easy bruising.

One should immediately see a doctor.

Iodine as remedy?

One of the dangers of radioactive fallout is the chance of contracting thyroid cancer, especially among young children.

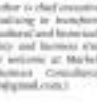
This is because as a thyroid absorbs iodine to make hormones. However, the gland only requires 150 milligrams of iodine and once this amount is obtained, the thyroid does not take in any more iodine and excess is passed through the body without being retained in the system.

The goal of giving people potassium iodide is to prevent radioactive iodine—a highly carcinogenic substance that results from nuclear reactions in an accident—from being absorbed by the gland.

The World Health Organization, however, cautioned against self-medication or indiscriminate use of iodine. It says iodine is not a radiation antidote and in fact, offers no protection against other radioactive elements such as cesium. It may also be dangerous to pregnant women and children.

The WHO also cautioned against drinking or even applying the iodine antiseptic solution around one's neck as this is ineffective, absurd and may pose a health hazard.

The nuclear hoax



MEDICAL FILES

Raffael Castillo, M.D.

IT'S UNTHINKABLE how there can be producers, who—out of plain mischief or some twisted motivation—seem to be enjoying not in bad faith in the midst of a calamity. Countless, probably millions of Filipinos fell prey in these unethical producers who sent letters containing bad messages of an imminent nuclear threat to the country because of the nuclear disaster explosion in Japan, following the March 11 (minus 8.8) earthquake.

Proving it to us is a report coming from reputable international broadcasting networks, they advise people to stay indoors, and apply Betadine solution on the area of the thyroid gland. Many unsuspecting are victims of the text message believed it like it was coming from an infallible authority, heeded the advice given in the letter and passed the SMS on to all their "loved ones," as it had instructed. The number of SMS that they were instructed "Download", how Smart and Globe have volume of SMS sent. It was reported that the shelves in pharmacies were cleared with all stocks of Betadine. The misinformation must have sold their whole month's allowance for the topic of nostalgia on Facebook.

More than a dozen patients ventured out to verify if it was true. I texted back: "What unlikely. Looks like a prank to me."

Science Secretary Mario Montejo assured the public that based on the daily radiation monitoring of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute—which is under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)—the level of radiation in the country has remained stable since the Fukushima nuclear power plant explosion in Japan and there is no imminent radiation threat. The DOST-PNRI has a 24-hour linkup with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and is closely monitoring developments. Almost every day, it issues advisories and as of this writing, there is no indication of any radiation threat, according to them.

Plume trajectory study

The DOST-Project also conducted a plume trajectory study from the Fukushima site. "The direction of the smoke appears to go away from the city, not in the country," reported DOST-PNRI Director Raymundo Ma. Nera. "The smoke is carried away by the southwest monsoon." In view the sun, too, which are saying to it the nuclear fuel is not going our direction, said Nera. Still, caution is forecasted to remain stable and if May 15. By that time, unless there are repeated explosions in the four nuclear plants currently in trouble in Japan, the levels of radiation in the atmosphere in the immediate vicinity of the nuclear plants should be markedly reduced already.

Japanese authorities—and we have no choice but to believe them—have reported that their nuclear crisis is still unimproved and that containment measures are in no situation. They've confirmed that it will unlikely go the same way as the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in 1986.

Modern safeguards

Our DOST believes them. "The design of the Fukushima reactor is different from that of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant," Secretary Montejo explained. There are more modern safeguards in the Fukushima nuclear plants such as a reactor building concrete shield and steel containment vessel. In event of a meltdown at Fukushima, the melted fuel is expected to stay within the steel containment, preventing its release to the environment," Secretary Montejo said.

The Department of Health (DOH) is also closely monitoring with the DOST-PNRI, and assures the public that it is prepared to consider possible transboundary effects of increasing levels of radiation. Ingesting foods and liquids with high level of radioactive substances could affect the thyroid glands, which could predispose the person to thyroid cancer, advised Dr. Eric Tayag, director of the Department of Epidemiology at the DOH, assistant Secretary Ina Ona and Dr. Agustin Sevilla, medical physicist of the DOH, assures the public that they have enough stock of this antidote. So, much as we would like to help Japan recover economically from this crisis, it would probably be not a good idea to ingest processed foods manufactured in Japan or were not made in Japan products.

CT scans

At this point, radiation fluxes coming from the Japan nuclear plant explosions is less likely than the natural background radiation readily—manifesting as tumors, vomiting, fever or diarrhea—which some hypochondriac patients are likely to develop with exposure medical scans such as the CT scans. Coincidentally we encounter patients who recently suffered diarrhea and fever from frequent CT scans on various parts of their body without telling each doctor that they (the patients) have already done it several times. When told that the results are unremarkable, they go to another doctor and undergo the same or similar imaging scans.

Although the ionizing radiation emitted by these scans are relatively less if done repeatedly, there could be a cumulative effect. So they should only be done when absolutely necessary to prevent exposure to unnecessary radiation. Experts also advise that protective shields should always be placed over the parts of the body not being scanned or studied during forty imaging tests or radiation therapy. Incidentally, personnel working in radiation areas are also at risk of chronic radiation and should wear devices which can measure their exposure levels. These potential sources of radiation are more real and dangerous than something like the Japan incident.

The next time you get to SMS of a radiation threat, before you panic, you can verify the real situation by calling up DOST-PNRI at 929-6711 to 929-6713 or (632) 276-1533. You can also visit the DOST-PNRI website at http://www.pnri.dost.gov.ph/, http://www.dost.gov.ph/. If you are someone with a Betadine thirst or his neck, you may pass on this advice to him, too.

Landco expands projects, earmarks P1B

By Charlen E. Bulos

WHAT WOULD you do with a billion pesos? For Landco Pacific Corp. the answer is simple: Expand if not finance the completion of current projects.

The move is important for a company that has been a pioneer in leisure development, having created first-of-its-kind leisure lifestyle experiences for more than 20 years.

"This will be the year when expansions and completions go hell bent so we intend our property developments to remain the most sought after in the market," says Landco president and CEO Alfred Xiao-Burgos III.

While accomplishing this, Burgos adds that they will be attracting a much wider market, while cultivating high-end buyers, Landco would also be raising the upper middle market.

"Landco will be injecting more exciting products in its existing developments. For example, we are set to begin the commercial development of Plaza Calmayan in Batangas with the introduction of the Leonard, a seaside project where an entire world be seen out by slow steamers in the weeks or months that they will not be required. The hotel operator will take care of maintaining these units for the owners," Burgos informs.

He adds that this will truly accentuate the fact that Filipinos live in a premiere seaside community.

Another chance

The Leisure Farms in Leisure, Batangas, will be offering a new phase that will give buyers a chance to own a prime piece of property in this country's first agro-tourism holiday farming community.

"The new phase will be called The Leaf and this will be in a prime location given its proximity to the entrance of The Leisure Farm as well as being situated in the highest and most commanding view of the property," Burgos described.

Another Batangas project that will be seeing changes is Playa Lotus. Burgos relates that the clubhouse is expected to be completed this year, thus allowing residents to enjoy this amalgamation area that will also feature a picnic and barbecue area.

Expansion

Another Landco development that will be seeing expansion this year is the Bridgetown Leisure Farms located in Silang, Cavite.

The new addition, called Pasadena Gardens, is expected to be an alluring expansion to this 52-hectare residential flower garden community.

Landco projects that will be seeing major developments include the Boracay Peak in Balabag, Boracay, wherein the company will be launching lofts and lot packages to address the clamor of one of the property's major markets, the families of overseas Filipino workers as well as those with extensive based abroad (especially those planning to retire here in the Philippines).

"We are also looking at expanding Playa Azalea, our very successful project in the Island Garden City of Samal. We intend to offer more residential lots there as well as begin the construction of the commercial area of the project," he shares.

Tower completion

Here in Metro Manila, Burgos announces that Landco has just launched the Radiom Place Tower 1 at Tahoe Private Residences in Green, Mandaluyong.

Due to the robust development within this 9.7 hectare development after Towers 2 and 4 has been announced that it is set to be turned over in a few months and the near completion of the first phase of the Active Space where the Sound Hotel and Country Club is located.

Once completed, Tahoe is will be composed of five luxurious residential towers with three towers per cluster.

Aside from these, I would also like to

Kassel Residences - Parañaque

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We welcome Brokers and Agents! • Call: (02)556.0888 or (02)659.6622

CHMI Land, Inc.

Tierra Maria ESTATES LIPA CITY

THE PROJECT

A fully-developed 35-hectare (ha) gated residential farm subdivision, Tierra Maria offers large estate farm lots of 750 sq m to 1,200 sq m (0.075 sq ft to 0.12 sq ft) each that provide ample space for relaxed living and ecological activities such as gardening and aquaculture.

With only 320 lots, the community is envisioned to be a neighborhood with a serene environment, very well within the reach of everyday comforts.

LOCATION

Barangay Antipo, Lipa City, Batangas, Philippines. Lipa City is located between and protected by two mountains – Mount Makiling and Mount Malepunyo. These two mountains serve as wind breaks in times of typhoon.

ELEVATION

About 500 meters (1,700 feet) above sea level, with naturally cool weather at an annual average temperature of 20 degrees centigrade.

DISTANCE AND TRAVEL TIME

Distance is approximately 60 kilometers (60 miles) from Makati. Travel time is approximately 1 1/2 hours drive via the Star Tollway from Makati. The expansion of SLEX and its connection to the STAR Tollway will further reduce travel time in the future.

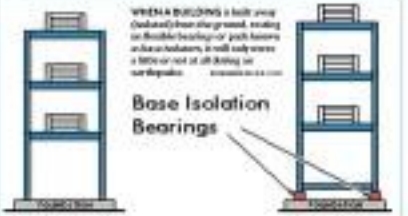
THE PEOPLE BEHIND TIERRA MARIA

Tierra Maria Estates is developed by Mary's Garden Realty. Its President, Mr. Amando Monteclaro, together with his family, started visiting Lipa City in the early 80's for prayer.

The Monteclaro family has been in land development since the 1970's in Silay City (Avida and St. Frances Subdivisions) and Bacolod City (Villa Maria Reyna). It was then quite natural for them to start a beautiful wooded dream Lipa for a subdivision, with the dream of providing a setting that would promote ecological balance for the homeowners and enhance their health of mind, body and spirit. They saw this potential for all time in the property which is now Tierra Maria.

GETTING THERE

Tierra Maria Estates is located in Barangay Antipo, Lipa City, Batangas and is easily reached via the South Luzon Expressway and the STAR Tollway. From the Tambo exit, R. Miranda Road will take you past De La Salle and Reformer's Mall, towards Cafe Roots. From Cafe Roots, take P. Torres Street and go straight towards the National Road. Turn (R) kilometers from the Carmelite Church along the National Road (towards Padre Garcia), turn right onto the road leading to Brgy. Antipo. 300 meters along this road is Tierra Maria. The Sales Office is located by the entrance gate.



How secure is your building?

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amando de Jesus

El Asnel, considered to be the most earthquake-prepared country on earth, finds it very difficult to relegate sad memories from a devastating magnitude 8.8 earthquake, can you imagine how other less prepared countries, like the Philippines can cope with such a calamity?

Let's look at recent events.

When Haiti was struck by a magnitude 7.0 earthquake on January last year it resulted in the loss of over 200,000 lives. In contrast, Chile's magnitude 8.8 earthquake which came a few weeks later, qualifying as 500 times more intense than Haiti's quake, claimed only about 400 lives.

What factors brought about the difference in the extent of damage between the two events?

Haiti, being an economically developing country does not have access to sound advances in seismic design technology in construction methods. It also lacks the political system that ensures that building codes are implemented and enforced.

It's a different story in Chile as evidenced by the many buildings that survived the earthquake very well.

In like manner, we are also apt to succumb to it in the event of earthquakes as we ourselves, as with our unprecedented God-gifted building construction talent/prowess.

Are we prepared? Can we handle a large-scale disaster if and when it strikes, as we suppose to say that is a matter of time?

Now is a good time to evaluate the risks we are facing. First and foremost, we must know well the building systems. Second, we have to check if we are using the building as planned. This is especially true for said decks or under-expanded floors of buildings that have been converted into another use other than its original purpose. Third, we have to understand the effects of any subsequent renovation to such buildings.

Buildings that contain dangerous materials should be safely distanced from residential, commercial and educational uses, pedestrian walkways and roads. These high-risk structures should be cleared for double protection against chemical or other hazards.

Our country has only a very few buildings with advanced seismic technology. We

LORRY REYES

Manhattan Garden City named a sustainable proje

Manhattan Garden City was identified as one of Megaworld Corporation's sustainable township projects during the 1st Sustainable Building Technology Conference held on November 11-12 at the SMX Convention Center.

According to Megaworld's Sustainability consultant, Edmond Maceda, township developments like Manhattan Garden City are the perfect models for sustainable land use planning. Compact townships promote "densification over sprawl" and transportation connectivity. Residents are encouraged to walk from their home to the mall or office.

Manhattan Garden City, located at the Araneta Center, offers an abundance of public transport options from buses, taxis to train lines. It is the only point in the metro where the LRT2 and MRT3 train lines converge, thus making any point of the metro from the north, south, east and west accessible within minutes.

Since this urban enclave will encourage residents to live, work, play and shop within the community, they are forecasted to consume less electricity and water, buy a lesser quantity of items and discard less trash and spend far less time in automobiles. With the main lines as an option for transport, they will significantly contribute to lessening greenhouse gas emissions, according to Maceda.

Manhattan Garden City is a joint venture project between the Araneta Group and Megaworld, the country's #1 developer of residential condominiums for the mid- and upper-income market.

"The green aspect of Manhattan Garden City also makes it a sustainable project. 65% of the total land area is dedicated to greeneries. Sky gardens at the upper four floors of every tower of our new phase, Manhattan Heights, will give residents a refreshing option to unwind high up the metro's confines," Megaworld Central Properties Inc. President Anthony Charlemagne Yu declared.

More than 20 different amenities – such as a lap pool and kiddie pool, skylights and jogging paths – line amidst tropical landscaping at the fourth floor podium level of Manhattan Garden City. The podium level also holds a 120-meter walkway through which residents can reach the other phases as well as the train stations via Gateway Mall for LRT2 and Farmers Plaza for the MRT line.

"Township living in a special place like Manhattan Garden City paints the way to a sustainable future. You can live, work, shop and play here everyday of your life with the entire family," Yu concluded.

To inspect the benefits of living at Manhattan Garden City, please call 810-3333 or visit the showroom at the 3rd level of Gateway Mall.

Residents will enjoy the live-work-play-relax lifestyle on offer at Manhattan Garden City.

Manhattan Garden City is one of the township projects of Megaworld Corporation that promote sustainability.

Manhattan Garden City is the only transit-oriented development that is linked to both LRT2 and MRT3 train lines.

Preparing for the 'big one'

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Armstrong

IMMUNE CAN create some very powerful imagery. In the past week, Japan and the rest of the world were shaken by the powerful earthquake and its tsunami. I kept looking at the photos and watching the videos on BBC as the whole events seemed melodrama. It's hard to absorb and process the kind of destruction the earthquake and tsunami have caused.

Back here, the event has once again prompted stories over the "big one," the "big one"—the much dreaded high magnitude earthquake that is expected to come from the Pineville fault anytime soon. What brings this true closer to reality is the fact that many damaging earthquakes have been occurring in the "pacific rim of fire" over the last three years. And even the Subic Valley fault are the country's only fault line.

Theories

So far, there have been no conclusions on the cause of these frequent, massive earthquakes. But there are some theories. One theory is the use of CO2 levels and global warming. Mother nature is angry and hurting. The other theory is that the sun is experiencing a solar minimum, a phase where the sun has no sunspots, very little solar activity, and no solar flares.

Some scientists have warned decreased sun activity to increased movement in the earth's tectonic plates. Others say it's the Mayan calendar and 2012, and that these catastrophes will culminate into the end of the world. My own take on this is that the earth is just going through its own evolution. Looking back at the earth's history of billions of years, it has gone through its ups and plunges of warming. Whether it will melt-freeze soon, we really don't know.

By the time this goes into print, it will be Saturday the 19th, the day we will be experiencing a "lunar perigee." Since the moon orbits around the earth in an elliptical path, there is a time when it appears larger than usual. But for the first time in 18 years, the moon will be roughly 222 kilometers closer to earth than it usually is. From our vantage point, we will be viewing a large and beautiful full moon. Its supposed effect on gravitational pull, is another phenomenon that has spurred talks as the cause of earthquakes and the shifting of the earth's plates.

Earthquake preparedness

Back home, the inevitability of a massive earthquake continues to hound us. After seeing the extent of the destruction in the earthquakes in Chile, New Zealand and now in Japan, I can't help but think about what to do at home and at the workplace to make them safer in the events the earth unleashes its fury and I drum up the emotional courage to go on with our daily routines.

Aside from the usual precautions of securing heavy items at the lower/most part of our shelves, anchoring our artwork and breakable items, fastening our tall and heavy furniture pieces to the wall, adding latches and stoppers to our cupboard doors, etc. If we are in the process of design, consulting structural engineers for added structurally designed reinforcement to structures can help as well. There are many websites that advise on earthquakes preparedness, on what to do during and after a quake. There are countless that give tips on keeping our spaces safe. There are even websites that sell quake-specific safety hardware, like the key-in-your-ignition type of device to counter the excuse that when a quake hits, we are in such a panic that we forget to turn off our cars' ignition.

ENCLOSED storage, compartments, properly fastened with catches or safety locks are ideal in earthquake-prone environments. And they need not lack in esthetic appeal, as seen in this image.

In the very least, we can start in the places we spend most of our time—our very own homes, schools and workplaces, keeping heavy items at the lower/most part of our shelves, securing our artwork and breakable items, fastening our tall and heavy furniture pieces to the wall, adding latches and stoppers to our cupboard doors, etc. If we are in the process of design, consulting structural engineers for added structurally designed reinforcement to structures can help as well. There are many websites that advise on earthquakes preparedness, on what to do during and after a quake. There are countless that give tips on keeping our spaces safe. There are even websites that sell quake-specific safety hardware, like the key-in-your-ignition type of device to counter the excuse that when a quake hits, we are in such a panic that we forget to turn off our cars' ignition.

Disaster can create some very powerful imagery that reflects in our imagination. One whirlpool caused by the tsunami, the white vapor at the nuclear plant, the high-rise buildings "dancing" in the case of the elements. Quite fascinating. But hopefully, these images can become fading enough to stir us to action in implementing our own disaster preventions. It will be a completely different picture, and one as fascinating, from the vantage point of a casualty.

Contact the author through designdimensions@ufsi.ph or through our Associate Berenguer Facebook account.

How secure is your building

From page B2-1

have a weak political system to implement and enforce strict building codes.

Protection from quakes

To protect buildings from earthquakes, builders generally resort to shear walls and bracing.

Shear walls are walls designed to resist shear, the lateral force which causes the bulk of damage to earthquakes. Lateral force is loads act in a horizontal direction on a building.

Another way to deal with earthquakes in buildings is by using base isolators. It is a technique developed to minimize damage to buildings during an earthquake.

This is how it works. Imagine a building built directly on the ground. This is called base building. Such a building will move with an earthquake's motions and possibly be damaged as a result.

On the other hand, imagine a building that is built on four big bearings or pads known as base isolators. This is an isolated type of building and will only move a little or not at all during an earthquake.

Base isolators work in a similar way to car suspension, which allows a car to travel over rough roads without the passengers bouncing up and down.

Base isolation technology can make medium rise masonry or reinforced concrete structures capable of withstanding earthquakes. Lead rubber bearings, layers of neoprene and is designed to have hard and soft.

A more sophisticated method for controlling seismic damage in buildings is by installing what is known as seismic dampers in place of structural elements such as diagonal braces. These dampers also act like the shock absorbers in cars. When seismic energy is transmitted through them, dampers absorb part of it, thus damp the movement of the building.

Going back to Chile's case, in addition to better construction standards than Haiti's, experts have noted the lowly tendency toward more reinforced concrete interior walls in buildings which increases shear force resistance.

In Chile, many of the improvements in their buildings are largely due to the painful lessons they learned from the 1960 magnitude 9.5 earthquake that killed more than 1,000 people.

We too have our share of past earthquake disasters; hopefully we have learned from them.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail imeldadejesus@gmail.com

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PONDEROSA Leisure Farms in Silang, Cavite is expecting more developments within.

Landco expands projects . .

From page B2-1

sold first residents of Woodhaven Park in Sun Valley, Parañaque as well as in Playa Azalea should be looking forward to the completion of their respective swimming pools. In Hacienda Escalera in Tanza, Cavite, the first phase will soon be completed and ready for turnover. The Ebed Lake will be in the development's clubhouse complex. Lastly, we will be launching a new phase in Monte Lago Nevara Estates in San Pablo, Laguna. Indeed, this will be a busy year for us," Burgos says.

One of the reasons Landco is going full blast this year is to address the growing needs of the market.

"Over the years, there is an increased number of players in the industry. This is good, news considering that in 2008 and 2009, the industry generated about P200 billion. This jumped to P300 billion last year. Considering that Landco is able to build a name in the various categories and changed the way people live—encouraging them to incorporate leisure into their lives—we believe we could be among the leaders in making this year much more profitable for the industry," he says.

And with industry forecast getting much brighter in 2011, Burgos notes that there is a lot of pent-up demand that needs to be served, especially in the mid-end market.

"Fortunately, Landco was able to gain an extensive following during the past decades. This gives the company great momentum in capturing the market's interest while other players are still in the process of establishing themselves," Burgos says, adding that the quality of Landco's products remains the benchmark. "In the end, it will all be about the product and how successful we have been in delivering a story and we found that people can identify with and depend on."

Fire-proof your properties

From page B2-1

catches fire, the flames would reach the fastener point it is left unchecked. Full-blown fire spread upward through openings in walls.

+ Compartmentation acts as an **internal firebreak**. The system's objective is to subdivide usable floor spaces into different fire zones so if a fire does break out in any of the zones, the blaze is contained, thus, minimizing damage.

+ A conventional compartment of walls and floors—reinforced concrete or masonry brickwork—have fire-resistant characteristics between five and four hours. These are able to endure persons buildings in any fire, and are even able to absorb certain amounts of explosive pressures. A modern counterpart using dry and lightweight construction materials have fire ratings ranging from one hour to four hours.

+ The design of vertical escape routes. Fire escape staircases should be kept at optimum dimensions. Fire/fire escape staircases in the common context ones are not ideal, even if it's economical. "If a service core design is unavoidable, then secondary means of egress should be provided as an alternative means of escape," Gong said.

+ Compatible high rises usually housing residents or the lesser part of the building, with offices occupying the upper parts.

+ Fire-resistant door sets used at fire escape staircases, protected corridor compartments, lift lobbies, hotel room entrances, public assembly panic exits, offices, apartments, condominium entrances, mechanical and electrical services rooms as well as elevators.

+ Installing a voice alarm system that could be broadcast to specific fire zones for evacuation purposes.

+ A professional in-house fire and safety emergency response team trained to handle emergencies.

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Does Facebook *alienate* you?

ABBYGALE Arenas de Leon (rear) does makeup artist Jocenis Sellio in the chair on "everyday" face on this subject. EDDIE VILLASIS

Three of the country's top models start workshops to coax you out of your shell

By Alex Y Vergara

FACEBOOK MAY have helped reestablish connections between long-lost friends, but for young people who have yet to fully develop their social skills, social networking has led some to become more awkward and socially inept when relating to others.

"Social networking has somehow kept a lot of children, including teens, from bonding with family and friends," said former model Shitty Benitez. "Instead of spending time with people, they spend more time living in a virtual environment."

The 35-year-old Benitez, who has been conducting self-improvement and confidence-building workshops among teens and pre-teens since 2004, has come up with activities to coax shy teenagers, particularly girls, out of their shells.

She will join colleagues such as Abbygale Arenas-de Leon, Marina Benipayo, Ema Aunion and Aurora Sellio in conducting a series of image-enhancement and personality development classes starting on April 2 at Personal JC's training center on 122 Pepa Avenue in Makati (www.personaljc.com; tel. nos. 890.8682, 0995.733.0632).

Strengths, talents, interests

After finding out a particular girl's strengths, talents and interests, Benitez uses this information to slowly build her confidence.

In the process, she has also become friends with some of the children's mothers. There was a woman from Iloilo, Constantine Nieto, for instance, who brought her 13-year-old girl to Benitez for one-on-one sessions.

The woman seemed desperate after a series of classes in a more established preteen-style development school did little to improve her daughter's fragile self-esteem. She wanted to try a more personalized approach.

"The girl is from a well-off family," said Benitez. "During our initial meeting, I found out that the source of her insecurity was the fact that they went from the provinces. I intervened to shadower her of such a mindset. I think I succeeded because at the end of the program, her mom was so thankful to me."

She also worked on a shy teenager who grew up in Indonesia and later moved with her parents to the Philippines. The girl had difficulty communicating with her/her age mates. She studied in an exclusive girls' school. Benitez probably molded herself? After the girl overcame her shyness, she went on to become a beauty queen.

While Benitez will focus on personality development for teens, Dr Leon will tackle the same subject designed for adults, particularly those about to embark on a career or are simply out to improve their prospects of landing a better-paying, more fulfilling job.

Other programs are the art of modeling (Benipayo), communication skills (Sellio), and personal imaging through hair and makeup (Sellio). Each program is divided into eight sessions at three hours per session.

Apart from the art of modeling, which costs P24,000 (inclusive of photo shoots and actual photos for documentation), MELANIE CA

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The power of five

By Carlet Concepcion
Contributor

THERE IS a surplus of young talents in need of a platform to share their creativity with the world.

Share's vision www.powersnet.org steps in. It's a simple and basic site that wants to encourage young individuals to express who they are, and hone them skills by sharing their views on fashion, style, beauty and growing up.

The site has four sections: "Spotted," where a member posts a photo of an interesting subject, be it a perfect outfit moment, outfit, or smile;

"Ask/Tell" to where one asks for advice on anything from love, or fashion related. Or one can share an opinion or give suggestions.

The third section is "Finds," where one can share things that have been seen/purchased, be it an accessory, art piece, runway episode, or the perfect sky-high heels.

The last section is "DIY"—the perfect place to share a step-by-step process on anything you have done, like how to distress your jeans, make that perfect pulled cheese sandwich, or mod those stylish shoes.

Young ambassadors

I was privileged to be chosen as one of the brand ambassadors. It is a site I truly believe in because it encourages our youth to think and be creative.

I hope this site can breed a new group of artistic individuals.

With me are four other interesting individuals. Here we are.

These young individuals are empowering the blogosphere.

Carlet Concepcion

Birthday: Feb. 2, 1994
Education: Belmonte HAAA and the Pacific
Occupation: Freelance stylist/writer/designer/blogger
Interests: Personal style, musicians, writers/writing, creative genres, beautiful things, reading, video recording, running marathons!
Can be found: Everywhere and anywhere that inspires and has no boundaries!
I'm a dreamer ... dreaming, trying new things, and pushing limits!
Quote: "Running recently after memory... never stop... never stand still... always moving... always growing... always going."
Idols: James Dean, Marlon Brando, Prince Dali!
Plans: To be a Parsons graduate and big-time designer who knows the world-shaping urban people/style. Into domestic—who cultivate day-to-day appear to an unknown location in her solitude life.
Website: www.longlivemillion.blogspot.com

Lauren Uy

Birthday: Oct. 8, 1989
Education: University of Asia and the Pacific (Bachelor of Arts in Communication, with Professional Certificate in Integrated Marketing Communications)
Occupation: Web researcher/writer at Stylebook, http://www.stylebook.com.ph, and blogger contributor to several magazines on style
Interests: Fashion, fashion and fashion!
Can be found: Everywhere!
Quote: "Fashion is nothing without style."
Idols: Kate Moss, Anna Dello Russo, Rumi Neely
Plans: Retire early and travel all over the world.
Website: www.lookmystyle.com

Powersnet.org is a blog about fashion, style, beauty and growing up, powered by five creative young individuals. Here, they talk about plans to conquer the world—and retire early

Bobby Sorgalay

Birthday: June 24, 1987
Education: Ateneo de Manila University 2008 (BS Management)
Occupation: people to see you / -Scott Stringer (a blogger to everything, not just clothes!)
Idols: Scott Stringer, Kanye West
Plans: To bring my menswear business (https://bobbysorgalay.tumblr.com/) around the world
Website: http://bobbysorgalay.blogspot.com/

Lissy Kahayon

Birthday: Nov 30, 1985
Education: De La Salle University-Manila 2004), Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Sciences (Major in Organizational and Social Systems Development)
Occupation: Fashion assistant, resident chocolate chips hoarder/eggwanda marathon runner
Interests: Photography, fashion, reading, travel
Can be found: I'm usually at the mall because of work. Also riding "morning-to-noon-to-night" for fashion parties!
Quote: "The more these pictures see the more blessed you'll be!"
Plans: Travel around the world.
Website: shenpai.com/lissykahayon and/or www.bloglovin.com/blog/3988/lissy-kahayon

Patti Gesmundo

Birthday: Jan. 8, 1987
Education: Pepperdine University Malibu,CA, 2005-2008
Occupation: Art/creative/model, owner of Tassel Petit Cakes
Interests: Food, fashion, travel, health
Can be found: In the kitchen, I'm a slave to pastries!
Quote: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
Idols: Oprah Winfrey, Carmen Electra, Cindy Crawford, Beyonce
Plans: To take a break to pull around the world brand food icebreaker TV show.
Website: www.tasselpetitcakes.com

Pinoy-made T-shirts bring out your *inner geek*

By Rose Ballesteros
Contributor

THE T-SHIRT is the ultimate Filipino uniform. It's comfy, easy to care for, and in recent years, it's become a canvas for proclaiming one's interests and passions.

A bunch of self-professed geeks and advertising super-friends—Jerry "Whitenoise" Mateo, Carl "Syntaxe" Regino, Joe "Mecha" Ty and Andre "Gregoe" Go—combined their powers to create Electromagnetic Tentacle (<http://electromagnetictentacle.com>) (your source for geek).

CLOCKWISE: Regino, Jacob Cruz, Jerry Mateo and Joe Ty of Electromagnetic Tentacle

Before I have a panic attack! You approached your favorite superheroes and put them in iconic situations right here in our home land—the gritty streets of Manila. The result are wearable pieces that need no explanations. (If you're a geek, you'll get it!).

BIO names the Electromagnetic Tentacle Trans on the T-shirt business, and are growing up to geeks in the Philippines.

Why the name Electromagnetic Tentacle?

It's a reference to "tentacles" and the "tentacle" stone about becoming so used to playing poker a lot, and we like making bad puns. And we used to say, "Let's call" which then evolved into "tentacle."

What's it like being a geek in the Philippines?

It's surreal to be a geek now because before, your only access was the comic book store, and you really had to seek friends with the same interests. But now, with the Internet, they're everywhere. When the Internet boomed, geeks got united becoming more and more relevant. Despite mod Dean, and with the direct number of geeks now, you no longer have to be ashamed to be one. You only have to say you read comic books, and that you're proud to be a geek. The negative connotation is gone.

Who's the most famous Pinoy geek, and would you want him to endorse ZIZIT?

We're happy with our current lineup of friends, like Jay Tablante, who is a famous Cosplay photographer. We'd also want to get Pinoy artists some of the top DC and Marvel artists are actually based here in the Philippines.

Is the T-shirt business all it's cracked up to be? Are you making enough to establish an advertising?

We're profited enough to reinvest in a second wave of shirts. The best things we get from the business are the laughs of people who pass by our booth. At some point, we even thought of putting up a store "One pass for every laugh." I'm laughed at is you know it.

What's geek chic, if there is such a thing?

My geeky like to show off when we support the store (we run the shirt the better. That's why our shirts rock the Pinoy-time work, because it's positive). The fashion of the convention crowd. We get a big kick when we see the shirts being worn in (image). Because we know that they didn't buy our shirts because they're our friends.

Where can your friends (and non-friends) get your shirts?

You can order through our blog site <electromagnetictentacle.blogspot.com> and our Facebook page. The shirts are also available at Symbols Comics in Cubao X and Dragon's Keep in Shoppesville Pilar, Greenhills. You'll also be able to visit our booth at some of the top and comic conventions.

A royal showcase of design talent

Fine Arts and Design students mount a fantastic 150-piece fashion show

By Kara Rikel Guingab
Correspondent

IT WAS a night of fashion, circus and royal glamour. This was "Ging Regal," the final showcase of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD) held Feb. 9 at the SRC Tent at Fort Bonifacio.

There were eight collections totaling over 150 pieces, with each collection dubbed "House."

House represented a fantastic aspect of the circus. Take the "House of Vampire Savagery," which made use of animal prints, neutral colors, and tribal accessories for the wild side.

There there was the "House of Eccentric Immersion," where clothes had big proportions—from sleeves, heavy shoulders, and studs, to the shimmer and gold used in various outfits and accessories.

A more girly theme was "Fragile Seduction," where the models entered the stage looking like dolls, complete with dressmaker's marks on their bodies. Bottoms were used as main assets in the collection, while heavy tulle skirts, hair bows, and organza dresses drew crowd lush from the audience.

One of the scene stealers was the "Fateful Mischief" collection, where all the models came out holding balloons and toys. The music was upbeat and the models were having the time of their lives.

It was a night to remember—the imaginations, the creative flair, and the enthusiasm.

Student powerhouse

The 277 junior college students of CFAD pulled it off.

"Preparations started in July last year," recalls student Lurhea Castañeda.

It wasn't easy to mobilize such a huge number.

"They put themselves in each other's shoes and were open to constructive criticism, because it's all for the benefit of our event," said Castañeda on how they overcame difficulties in executing the show.

A few personal sacrifices had to be made. Some into-classes would coincide with the meetings, and school deadlines piled up, but the organizers had to balance their time, energy and resources to make the show work.

The students' commitment and dedication were evident to the faculty. "The students really put their hearts into this," said Estrellita Brias, a CFAD professor.

Asked what advice can she give students who want to go into fashion? "Be confident and persevering. There will be many challenges along the way, but hold your ground and stay humble."

The long hours, hard work, dedication and perseverance certainly paid off. As the models and student designers took their bow, they received a standing ovation for the excellent show.

"Ging Regal" was the last fashion show for these CFAD students, but this will surely not be the last time we hear from them in the fashion industry.

"HOUSE of Vampire Savagery" made use of animal prints, neutral colors and tribal accessories.

MODELS rocking the style

Does Facebook alienate you?

From page C1

each program will set a participant back by P18,500. Each class will have a maximum of 16 participants to facilitate interaction between teacher and students.

Model wannabes

"My classes aren't exclusive to professional models and model wannabes," said Bonjoyno, a veteran model herself. "Whether or not they end up as models, I think they can easily apply what they learned from me to their everyday work lives."

Since competition these days is much stiffer, job-applicants, particularly for front-line positions, have to stand out and prove themselves well, she said.

"My course will not only tackle camp-and photographic modeling, but also visual poise and confidence-building. I want to open up their minds in exploring other options apart from modeling," she added.

Bonjoyno-A may be a new training center, but De Leon, its founder, owner and talkshow mentor, has been in business for almost 14 years now. Even before she was Miss Philippines in 1997, De Leon has been conducting seminars for a number of corporations.

He soon also trained in Los Angeles as a makeup artist. One of her first protégés was Judez, who later went abroad to supplement her training. She and De Leon are among a handful of local makeup artists adept at applying airbrush makeup.

"Unlike Animania for corporate clients, the market for a permanent training center is younger and more diverse," she said. "That's why I felt that there was a need to divide the class between adults and teenagers."

The programs (except for communication skills) are admittedly centered on women, but De Leon isn't discounting further diversifying her fledgling company's offerings in case no more men sign up.

Dr Leon's programs will also tackle such basics as posture, table etiquette, social graces and power dressing. She will also touch on basic makeup, skincare and grooming.

"Based on the years I've spent doing corporate training, there's really a desire for people to improve themselves, boost their confidence and enhance their public image," she said. "The programs are confidential are no longer limited within a certain company. They're now available to the general public."

hip

Summer's not just about the sand and the sea! Wear this earth-tone ensemble—perfect for watching the sunset and partying 'til' sunrise!

casual

Indulge in a breezy morning walk in this light fabric, neutral tone ensemble-fit for those weekend getaway with friends. Only P298.75 for the polo. & P599.75 for the shorts.

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The new wrist factor

By Paul Albert Palmore
Contributor

EVER WONDERED how the Swatch Group managed to keep ticking as the most dynamic watch company in the whole world for the past 20 years?

Innovation

From its first ever dive-proof watch to its legendary Chronos and Irony collections, Swatch has kept abreast with its advances in science and technology—reason enough to hearing been hailed as the "Official Timekeeper" during past Olympic Games and Ski and Snowboarding World Cup competitions.

For 2011, Swatch presents to Bijou jewelry line, which runs its "Color Codes." Chosen from 18 long, thin leather bracelets in splashes of colorful hues—white, black, light blue, dark blue, red, yellow, purple, green, orange and pink. Each bracelet comes with 30 colored leather loops, akin to the 18 interwoven bracelets colors.

The Swatch Bijoux Color Code bracelets are now available for P1,800 each at all Swatch stores nationwide.

2b LIFESTYLE

Bata, Matanda, May sakit or Healthy dapat
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The vaccines division of sanofi-aventis Group
Bakunado SA FLU

Celebrities speak out against bullying

'Speak up about it, and tell people you're being bullied. Don't hide it. Don't be ashamed of it'—'Glee' star Matthew Morrison

By Joanna Francisco
Contributor

ON AN EPISODE of the US television program "Ellen" last November, Madonna beamed in via satellite to speak on the recent spate of teen suicides linked to antigay bullying. First and foremost, she explained, "The gay community has been incredibly supportive of me. I wouldn't have a career if it weren't for the gay community."

The pop star cited the media and our culture as the main culprits behind bullying and intolerance. She extended her love and support to all those who are struggling, and agreed with Ellen de Generes that "selfies end up being losers."

Glee star Matthew Morrison and Justin Bieber are two more celebrities who have recently spoken up about bullying.

"I think it's important that we talk about it, and that we do something about it," said Morrison.

"It's a hard thing to do, and you feel awful about yourself, but as someone who has been bullied in the past, life gets better and this isn't the end. You can't let other people dictate how you feel or who you are. Just know yourself, trust yourself, and know that you have a voice. Speak up about it, and tell people you're being bullied. Don't hide it. Don't be ashamed of it," he continued.

Bieber admitted having "haters" who say crazy stuff, but he wasn't mad about online remarks.

Child violence

Violence against children by their peers, in particular bullying, has received little attention in the country, possibly due to the perception that bullying and fighting among children is part of school culture.

"Away Zone" is the common excuse for it—it's "normal" or "a rite of passage" for children.

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In the *ruff*

Romance is the buzz word of the season—everything girly, from frills to flounces

THE SHEEREST chiffon here, a whimsical ruffle and flounce there. Find the right balance between sultry and sweet, a girlish frills mixed in nude and candy-floss colors, and in the most delicate of fabrics. Whatever your fashion taste, the saccharine trend is something we can all fall head over heels.

DRESS and shoes, Zara; sunglasses, Forever 21

Boy meets girl
PRETTY doesn't have to be predictable: add boyish appeal to a dolicate dress with tailored blazer.

A leg up
TAKE a collection top with leg-baring action. The sexy-safe thing to do and interesting

SKIRT and top, Forever 21 roundup, Michael Antonio

SLEEVELESS top, Zara; cut-off shorts and cover-up, Topshop

Short and sweet
JUST PERFECT: rough-edged shorts with skinny top, and add layered tribesti with a retro print cover-up.

No cold shoulder
PLEATED and ruffled details on a sleeveless top mark a double take.

TOP with pleat at sleeves, Zara; ring by Vivo, available at Pinoy Invasion, Forever 21

Too cool for school
A DENIM JET over perfectly brushed hair adds pizzazz to one's look.

SHIRT Mission, Topshop, Uniqlo, Zara; clutch, Michael Antonio; blazer, Forever 21

True Filipinos at heart

James and Phil Younghusband wear their hearts (and Pinoy pride) on their sleeves as ambassadors for an iconic homegrown brand

By Bert Cabal

IT'S A PRIVILEGE to be a brand ambassador, more so if the brand is an iconic one like Collezione-C2, the brand that made wearing Filipino pride on your shirt fashionable.

The C2 shirts with the Philippine map designs have become symbols of patriotism, worn by bubblesports, public servants, and journalists.

The Younghusband brothers, football sensations James and Phil, were recently chosen by Collezione-C2 to be its ambassadors.

The English-Filipino duo, members of the Philippine national football team popularly known as the Azkals, have been making waves in the football arena.

"The Younghusbands share the same values and objectives of the brand," says Jose Que, Collezione-C2 managing director, during the fashion brunch at the Manila Peninsula.

"They are here to inspire people. Through their talents and skills, they were able to harness support for football. We want to gain support for the country," Que says.

Pinoy excellence

According to Que, James and Phil are very proud of their heritage. The brothers were also able to influence and encourage young people to pursue their passion in life.

"They do their part in society and challenge themselves to do something good for the country," says Que on why they chose the brothers.

Que also mentioned that though the brothers have become football idols abroad, they chose to come home and stay in the Philippines, because of their love for the country and the sport.

Why did you both agree to represent a homegrown brand like C2?

James: When the partnership with Collezione-C2 was suggested, we both had no qualms about representing the brand, because we have something in common—a love of originality, reaching Pinoy pride, and living out one's passion.

Phil: Like Collezione-C2, we also believe in Filipino artistry and the art of forward thinking. These are things we both believe are relevant in this day and age for our country to remember.

What Pinoy and Filipino do you enjoy doing?

J: Chilling out with our family, doing anything with our family. We like to play tennis with our sisters, watch movies with our mom, play Monopoly with our dad, probably sing karaoke, but I can't sing!

P: Spending time with the family, going over to our cousins, carving adobo and pancit bihon, and listening to albums.

Classics? Oh really?

P: Our mom, our mom loves the gamit. And talking [inaudible]. Our mom talks loud. But yeah, we spend time with the family eating Filipino food and just socializing.

What is your favorite Filipino food?

J: PANCIT, PANCIT, PANCIT.

P: Pancit bihon and adobo.

Dessert?

P and J: Halo-halo. We love it!

Have you guys tried any weird Filipino food?

JAMES loves pancit.

PHIL loves to sing "Pinoy ako. Pinoy tayo."

P: I haven't tried balut. It was offered to me the other day.

J: Yeah, when we were training, but we weren't in mode for it.

P: I'm not so adventurous when I eat. I mean, I don't eat fish. I really have sensitive taste buds.

J: And I don't like chips.

P: Even the cheese and sour cream. I was thinking cheese and sour cream? (Laughs) We think Filipino food is creative. In England when we have 05 spins gatherings, there will be green dessert, purple dessert.

J: I probably tried a load of things, but I don't remember the names. I'm more adventurous. Most of the time, I like to just ketchup on almost anything.

Getting around

What places have you been to in the Philippines?

P: We've been to Palawan, Tagaytay, Cebu, Bacolod, Davao, and Iloilo. That's what's great about football, you can go to all these places. My fave place would probably be Palawan.

J: Everywhere is my favorite, as long as football is there.

Have you been up north?

P: Baguio! It's probably my favorite! It's just going uphill, it makes me dizzy.

Do you listen to Pinoy music?

J: You know it better. Chinese looks at Phil's. I like the songs that Phil gets to sing...

P: Okay okay "Sing Along Awhile" by Side A. (That's the song he sang at GMA's "Celebrity Duets" in 2009). I also like "Sweet" by Apo Hiking Society. Then there is this "Pinoy ako, Pinoy tayo..." What's the name of the song?

P: The Phil song, "Pinoy Ako, Pinoy Tayo ...Kontinuo ng Lahi."

What is your favorite thing about being in the Philippines?

P: Meeting Filipinos. Everyone is accommodating and respectful. Everyone shows respect, everyone says "po, opo, etc." In England, they just chide their hands.

Were you culture-shocked when you first came here?

P: Oh no, we're here every year.

J: For football stands/fields, we were shocked.

P: Now living here, you are more impressed with the jeepneys and buses, but when you are on vacation, you are still amazed and like, "wow, jeepneys!"

J: We just want to ride on the back of the jeepneys, but our mom would never let us. She goes, "You could die!" (Laughs)

What do you think about Filipino women?

J: Magands.

P: Filipinos are some of the most beautiful women. I'm not just saying that because we are with Filipinos, but they are really beautiful. We like the dark features and the dark eyes.

Have you had a Filipina girlfriend?

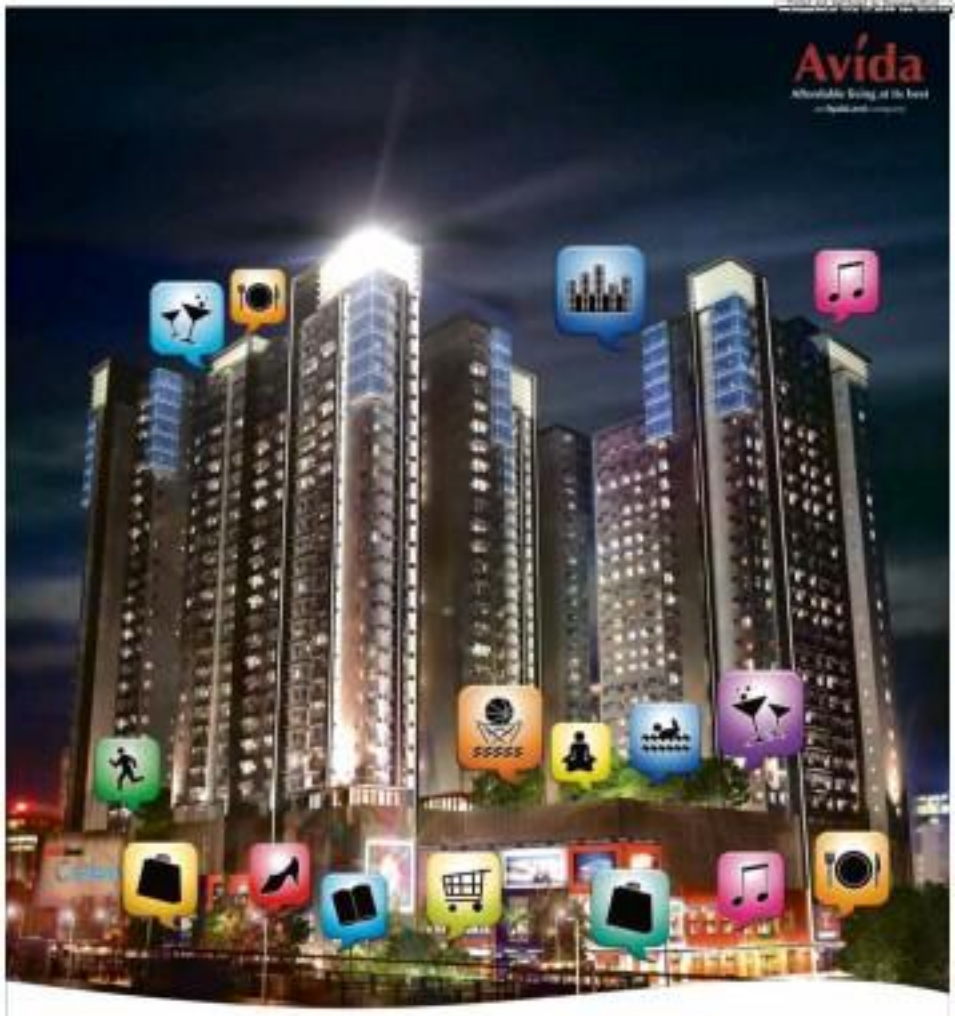
J: Yep, mostly half-Filipinas.

P: He did. I never did.

How does it feel to represent Filipinos in football?

J: It's an honor to represent the country for a sport that has not gained so much recognition as it should. It makes us happy that so many Filipinos are now learning to appreciate football. We want to keep that going, and hopefully keep on winning, so we can make a Philippine mark on the international football scene.

BROTHERS Phil and James have always supported each other in their family.



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Celebrities speak out against bullying

Previous page

"SAVE" star Mandy Moore

for abuse, cyber-bullying. The Internet and mobile phones have provided new opportunities for bullying through online chat lines, personal web pages, text messages, and transmission of images.

"The Internet is a medium where children are exposed to abuse," says lawyer Ani Ingking, United child protection specialist. "Cyber-bullying is a phenomenon involving email, harassing languages or defaming a person on a website. It can ruin a person's reputation overnight."

Unique aspects of cyber-bullying are that it allows perpetrators to remain anonymous, it allows for quick distribution and replication of messages, and it can turn masses of children into bystanders or witnesses of non-physical bullying of a highly malicious nature, as perpetrators hide behind their anonymity.

A school is a student's second home, and assumed to be one of the safest places for children. Unfortunately for some this is where they experience abuse.

Schools become the settings that expose children to violence, not just from their peers but also from teachers and school personnel. Children may experience corporal punishment, verbal abuse, sexual and gender-based violence, fighting, and bullying.

The reality is that children are bullied and labeled not only by their peers, but violence is also perpetrated when children are punished and embarrassed by their teachers.

Help line

The United Children Against Violence Campaign was created to address the experiences of children, who are often afraid to speak up or don't realize they are being abused. Educating them about their rights is a form of empowerment, and a step in words changes.

"The solution has to start with the children themselves," says Ingking. "They should recognize it is a problem, and that it is a violation of their rights. Other wise, things won't change."

Violence against children happens worldwide. If a child has experienced violence—whether physical or emotional—he or she has a right to seek safety.

The World Report on Violence Against Children delivers its core message: "No violence against children is justifiable. All violence against children is preventable."

Take Action

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Write to your lawmakers to support the passage of the Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill, which seeks to ban all forms of physical punishment of children, whether at school, in the community, or in the home.
2. Report cases of abuse to your local police station or "Ating Pulis" hotline at (0912) 771-7311.
3. Engage other youth in educating peers and parents about their rights, for feedback and monitoring cases of abuse and violence and in building support for each other.
4. Be an advocate of positive discipline. You can also research online for more resources on positive discipline. Contact the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) at tel. no. 740-8865 for more information.
5. Talk about it on Facebook.
6. For more info and children's rights, and some actual gh.

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2b LIFESTYLE

Teenage *demigods* and their 'hero' complex

Rick Riordan returns triumphantly to the world of Greek mythology—and his new protagonist gives Percy Jackson a run for his drachmas

By Ruel S. De Vera

IT CANNOT be denied that Rick Riordan knows his mythology to a revolutionary art: in 2005, Riordan, then an author of suspense novels, decided to unleash upon the reading world "Percy Jackson and the Olympians Book One: The Lightning Thief," a modern take on Greek mythology. That series, Percy Jackson and the Olympians, transformed Riordan into an icon of young adult fiction, producing five best-selling novels with the last one, "The Last Olympian," coming out in 2009 and becoming a major motion picture.

Aside from the accessibility provided by the contemporary setting, the Percy Jackson books cast a spell over the readers with their ingenious reinterpretation of the ancient myths. Additionally Percy and his companions Annabeth and Grover were winningly sympathetic characters and the readers learned to miss them when the series ended. In the interim, Riordan even started a new series called the Kane Chronicles, but this one was about Egyptian gods instead.

Luckily, Riordan isn't quite done with the Greeks just yet. His new book, "The Heroes of Olympus Book One: The Lost Hero" (Disney-Hyperion Books, New York, 2010, 306 pages), while featuring a new cast, is essentially a sequel to the Percy Jackson books, picking up shortly after the first series left off. But Riordan has much bigger things in mind beyond just another Greek-inspired tale.

TURN TO PAGE 3

SUMMER CAMP AT SM

Love the Blues and get a chance to join a fun Summer Camp for kids at SM!

It's so easy! Every P1,000 single receipt purchase from the Love the Blues denim collection at the Infant and Children's Wear Departments until April 11, 2011 entitles kids from 5 to 13 to join in the Summer Camp workshop of their choice at 60% off the enrollment fee.

At the Summer Camp, kids can learn to walk the catwalk in the Modeling 101 Workshop or learn hip-hop and groove with attitude and style at the Breakdancing 101 Workshop. Each workshop consists of four-day sessions, equivalent to a ten-hour workshop / facilitated by Voice Power and Trumpets Workshop, plus a one day recital where they can show off their newly learned modeling and dancing skills.

You'll Love the Blues with the vast collection of denim jeans, shirts, tops, and dresses at SM's Infants and Children's Wear Departments, and before still have a chance to shine in a fun Summer Camps at SM Novaliches, SM San Lazaro, SM Marikina, SM Taytay, SM Southmall, SM Bacoor, and SM Santa Rosa.

The Love the Blues collection is available at the SM Department Store branches in Makati, Cubao, North EDSA, Megamall, Fairview, Novaliches, Sta. Mesa, Manila, San Lazaro, Taytay, Marikina, Southmall, Bacoor, and Santa Rosa.

This ruffled skirt gives a feminine spin to denim dressing and the pretty denim skirt dress.

Adorable stretch denim total ruffle-up skirt.

www.shoplovetheblues.com

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Graphics Design: Ruben Joshua Cunio

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Edward Dewey Bautista, marketing division of MIB Condotels Corporation, said that the MIB is the first owner to the condotel business. "Investors shared that what makes guests keep on coming back is the warm service of the staff; each guests are well assisted, it has very flexible rates and it allows guests to cook inside their rooms. Right now, the MIB management is in the process of renovating the place to be at par with luxury hotels chosen by the discerning guests. It is the ultimate choice to be their home away from home," he added.

For more information, please call telephone nos. 848-3215 or 0916 2878. E-mail reservations@princeplaza2.com or visit group.com.ph or visit their website www.princeplaza-mabini.com.

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Managed by Quantum Hotels and Resorts, The Malayan Plaza is located along ADB Avenue corner Ojeda Road in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. It offers furnished studio, one bed, room and two bedroom units that come with home amenities: cutlery, comforters and functional to Apart from featuring stylish interiors, The Malayan Plaza is also equipped with complete living, dining and kitchen facilities. Other amenities include: cable network television, NEC 1100 telephones, individually controlled air-conditioning, bed and cold water, satellite video channels, broad band internet access, helipad, swimming pool, open-air relax pool with minimal charge for usage), children's playroom, housekeeping, laundry, concierge services, private dining, and 24-hour security.

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LIMA PARK HOTEL MONGOLIAN 'EAT ALL YOU CAN'

LIMA PARK Hotel's Asian Flavors Restaurant invites everyone to its Mongolian Grill 'Eat All You Can' for lunch and dinner for only P775+ every Friday from March 5-May 2011. Asian Flavors offers a variety of delicacies inspired by Asia's most scrumptious dishes. It is headed by chef Paul Pulmaler, formerly of Kasmir Hotel in San Pedro. For reservations and inquiries at The Asian Flavors, please contact (049)541 1111, Ron Aquino

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Makati Shangri-La introduces the art of La Mien

Makati Shangri-La, Manila invites guests to experience an authentic Chinese dining affair this month as the hotel welcomes guest chef Ivan Yi Li from Shangri-La's Golden Flower Hotel in Daqing, China, briefly, is now in Philippines to introduce the art of La Mien, also known as pulling noodle, from March 1 to 31 at Circles Event Café. Guests will be entertained by the unique and artistic method of La Mien, a special type of hand-pulled noodle used as a main ingredient for a variety of Chinese dishes. Experience a unique epicurean event as chef Li demonstrates his expertise in La Mien, which continuously involves stretching the dough repeatedly until it produces strands of fine and long noodles. Makati Shangri-La Manila is the first stop of chef Li's nine tours the Philippine Shangri-La properties to showcase his extraordinary talent. For inquiries and reservations, please call the Restaurants Reservations and Information Centre at (02)840-8888 or E-mail mr.chef@shangri-la.com. Hong Kong based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts currently owns and/or manages 71 hotels under the Shangri-La, Kerry and Traders brands with properties in over 30 cities. Shangri-La hotels are located in Australia, Canada, mainland China, Fiji, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Singapore, Saltanate of Oman, Taiwan, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. The group has a successful development pipeline with approximately 21 hotels scheduled to open with the majority in China, India, Macau, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and United Kingdom. For more information and reservations, please contact a travel professional or access the website at www.shangri-la.com.

Marching on to City Garden Hotel

CITY GARDEN Hotel, conveniently situated within the metro's bustling business district, is a well-equipped 29-storey hotel that offers economical packages for the graduates. For only P2,365+ on twin-sharing basis, college friends and the family can enjoy the weekend with fancy food, and luxurious rooms. Have a taste-ful sip of the drink of the month aptly named Marchera which comes with a free-limited edition champion floor (frothed 'ng and a City Garden Mug - all for only P540+. For this month, indulge on the Chef's Specials, a freshly prepared feasts for the graduates, for only P680+ at La Jardin Restaurant and at the Poolside Bar and Grill. Cap it off with the summer drinks Garden Frappe and Coffee Lace for an additional P150+. For wine lovers, choose from the finest selections or house wines for P700+/bottle or P130+/glass. Or the wine of the month at P680+/bottle or P250+/glass. What process for graduations with your batch-mic mouth-watering pizza or homemade burger and get a free glass of fruit shake (cantaloupe/watermelon or pineapple only) for a low price of P350+, let's not forget the happy hour from 4 to 6 p.m. where the graduates can get an iced cold draft beer for only P45+ per mug or get 5 mugs of beer with a mini alimentary appetizer (calamari crunch, gyoza, vegetable spring rolls) at P250+net. For those wanting a new look or happy hour, indulge to the Chef's Special draft with 'blend in' for only P588+, and enjoy a complementary appetizer. From endings to new beginnings, be at the place to be! - City Garden Hotel Makati. For inquiries and reservations, please visit the Hotel Reception or call (632) 896-1111.

Hats off to graduates at Hyatt Hotel

DIWATA 72 the graduating class of 2011 (April 15, April 16, April 17) will be wild Exotic Manila celebrate campus pride with exquisite gifts and lavish feasts in its award-winning restaurants. Graduates who attend Diwata 72 the graduating class of 2011 (April 15, April 16, April 17) or "The Firestarters" will receive a complimentary celebration cake (500g), complete with a cap and gown inside of sweet marzipan. Guests dining with groups of five to nine people will enjoy an additional complimentary bottle of wine. Groups of ten to 24 diners will be treated to a celebration cake (1kg), a bottle of sparkling wine and ten P500 lunch vouchers valid for use at Market Cafe. U.U. The Brasserie or the Pastry Boutique, while groups of 25 to 40 people will enjoy the same benefits, this time with ten bottles of sparkling wine and four P500 cash vouchers. For reservations of 41 or more people, the group can indulge in a huge celebration cake (2kg), two complimentary bottles of sparkling wine, a complimentary overnight stay in a guestroom with breakfast buffet for two people and a special luncheon amenity during the day. All graduation dining packages include free valet service per table. A minimum charge per person is required to enjoy this special offer: an in-room P900 nett for U.U. and P2,000 nett for The Fireplace, while the regular bottle rates of P1,400 nett for lunch and P1,600 nett for dinner apply at the Market Cafe. In addition, a special graduation cake created by the hotel's talented pastry chef, Johann Dreitzler, will be available at the Pastry Boutique for only P900. Order ahead by calling the Pastry Boutique at 241-8668. For enquiries and reservations of the graduation package, please call 246-1234.

Sweet meets savory with Gaudi's wine all-you-can

LOOK FORWARD to a quiet weekend retreat and complete a Friday night of social experience, taking anyone to a nostalgic and sensible mood. Run the whole gang at Gaudi as it incorporates the famous integrated culture of Spain...a warm relishing wine drinking and tapas sampling experience.

Enjoy wine all-you-can for only P688 net, and discover the sensational selection of Spanish, Chilian, and Australian wines with crowd pleaser tapas carefully prepared by executive chef Hernandez Carlos Jesus. Choose from the delectable pil pil, well thought-out gourmet style tapas selections. Beer lovers are also set to have an indulging night with P90 net per bottle beer offer, plus the affordably priced P520 net wine bottle and not to miss a Good Corporate Bargain, Boasting a temperature-controlled wine cave facility, all wines are guaranteed served in optimum temperature.

If you're sick doing the same old thing for weekend break, come to Gaudi and have a new found appreciation for Spanish cuisine. Aside from these great pairing wines, the restaurant is surely a sophisticated venue designed to encourage conversation after scrumptious feasts.

Gaudi is open daily from 11 a.m. until 12 a.m. Wine all-you-can paired with tapas and canapés is served every Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. Located at Ground Level of Serendra, Gaudi is surrounded

by top business offices, theatres and high end shops, making it the ideal spot for a quiet coffee, a memorable business lunch or a romantic dinner.

For more information and reservations, call 856-0972.

Richmonde Hotel Ortigas salutes graduates

CELEBRATE THE milestone of graduation and mark it the special treat Richmonde Hotel Ortigas has for the graduating class of 2011! It is stylishly new all-day dining restaurant, Richmonde Cafe From March to to April 30, graduates can experience the taste of success and cheer with family and friends with a 30% discount on Richmonde Cafe's Lunch Buffet, Chefs Exclusives, and ala carte orders for a minimum of four persons dining. A valid proof of graduation (diploma, graduation program, etc) must be presented for graduates to avail themselves of the discount. Children 6 to 12 years of age will get 50% discount on buffet rates and children 5 years old and below get treat for free. Discount is not valid in conjunction with other special promotions (Easter Sunday Buffet, Friday Dinner Buffet) and discounts privileges cannot be used. For inquiries (a632)8-7777 or (a632)8-8418 (Richmonde Cafe). The Richmonde Cafe is located at the 2nd floor of The Richmonde Hotel, 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Lancaster Hotel offers 50% off this Holy Week

LANCASTER HOTEL Manila has a special package that would not only meet but exceed fitness. Avail of their "Sanctuary for Sweet Si" package when you book a room from April 11 to 20, and enjoy 50% off on published rates. This special promotional rate comes with buffet breakfast for two, center-themed dinner at Lancaster Cafe, Internet connection in all rooms, and complimentary shuttle service to Manalaysay and Ortigas churches. Prior reservation is required and subject to space availability. Lancaster Hotel Manila is conveniently located at Shaw Blvd. in Mandaluyong City, a few hundred meters away from the busy intersection of Ortigas along Edsa. For more information call (632) 532-1818, fax (632) 532-1936, or log on to www.lancasterhotels.com.ph.

Making big use of a big property

THE 30-hectare property Projects Hills Resort and Conference Center is an example of making full use of space. Nested at the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountain range, Projects Hills is complete with function and leisure as well as accommodations and amenities for weekend travelers. Considered a prime property in Tanay, Rizal, Projects Hills boasts of pleasing vistas and pocket forests that have been attracting nature-trippers and hikers.

For those who prefer a more adventurous bent, Projects Hills has built an adventure camp within its confines. Instead of just bare land, there are facilities for wall-climbing, paint ball, hi-lands, basketball, and swimming. The Olympic-sized swimming pool provides a refreshing sight in itself, as it is found in the middle of towering trees and is adjacent to a multi-purpose entertainment hall.

This vast track of land affords itself the view of Metro Manila. When viewers try to make viewing runs for them with Projects Hills' very own 129-meter zipline, which gives people a 360-degree view of Manila. There is also the lure for those in inclined.

Projects Hills marketing manager Mitch Augusto states that various accommodations have sought Projects Hills for their well-equipped conference rooms that fit up to 60 people. There are audio-video equipment as well as a banquet hall for 300 guests. The dining hall can have 300 guests.

There are separate cottages designed like country houses. There are home-up-to-eight people, and have air-conditioner, satellite cable TV, among others. Guests can also avail of WiFi.

Projects Hills Resort and Conference Center is located in Sitio Bitaog, Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal. For more information, call 681-5001, 997-1705, 695-1332, or 0949-4063776. Visit the website at www.projectshills.com.

Restaurant Directory

Hotel Directory

Teenage demigods and their ...

From page E1

This time, the book's hero has even more emotional baggage. Apparently a demigod like Percy, Jason Grace wakes up during a school field trip but can't remember who he is at all. While he struggles with the shock, strange storm spirits attack the students and Jason makes it out with the help of his friends, the crossbred Piper McLean and the ingenious Leo Valdez.

Olympus gone dark

The three then find themselves in a place they've never even before, but readers have: Camp Half-Blood, where we bump into some old friends. After settling in, the three were told they are the offspring of the Greek gods. After taking in that bizarre Olympus has gone dark and Percy Jackson has gone missing. The oracle then speaks of a prophecy where the seven greatest demigods must band together to save everything.

But before that, Jason and company have some unfinished business to take care of. Each of them has some driving bothering them, and they are battling strange dreams. Someone is trying to reach out to them, even as something else is stirring under ground. So they set off to counter more bizarre myth and creatures, the three friends must overcome their fears and find out what is really going on. In "Hero," Jason is told what they should really do, and they must accomplish that task at all costs. With events the rebellion has only begun.

The dead will continue to rise. Monsters will regenerate with even greater speed ... all evil instincts will burn."

This is an exciting, intensive first chapter, dealing with more obscure legends. There are some familiar narrative tricks from Percy Jackson, but "Hero" is actually more complex as Riordan unfortunately weaves in the tricky relationship between the Greek and the Roman versions of the gods. How Riordan makes it all work is brilliant. The three heroes are actually more three-dimensional takes on the Percy Jackson archetypes. Jason, closely the titular "hot hero," in particular, is more of a bad boy; Piper is more confident rather than a know-it-all, and even Leo has an impressive back story. It all makes for a triumphant read.

Along with an ending with a sense of foreboding, "Hero" warns Jason and friends of what comes next: "It will then be the most dangerous quest, the most important voyage, ever attempted by the children of the gods." Unfortunately, you'll have to wait for October at least for the next volume of the Heroes of Olympus, "The Son of Neptune." But here is the start of a whole new chapter in Rick Riordan's modern myth-making, a godsend of a novel, young adult or otherwise.

The New Hippies

Every summer it's the same drill – nautical stripes, florals, bohemian collections...

Oxygen does a different Summer by coupling its Minimalist aesthetic with key global trends - Cropped, Sheer, and Altered Panels – while maintaining that cool, relaxed summer "hippie" vibe that we all love.

This Spring-Summer campaign is all about hanging out – whether at a music festival, our favorite hole-in-the-wall, a friend's pad, or some random rooftop with a really cool view of the city.

The New Hippie dons new cuts and clean lines and has mastered *The Art of Doing Absolutely Nothing*.

super LIFESTYLE
Style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation
Editor
Thelma Sioson San Juan
Associate Editor
Pam Pascual

I was there when the earth shook

(FROM L) Pagula Mishkyawa with husband Kenji and kids Teruki and Taiga Minkan

Everything was rocking. It felt like we were trapped in an amusement park ride

THE BUILDING next door cracked

By Michelle Pagula Minkkawa
Contributor
(as told to Pam Pascual)

I'VE BEEN living in Tokyo, Japan, for 10 years now, first as a single girl and now with Kenji, my Japanese husband, and our two brats, three-year-old Teruki and one-year-old Taiga Minkan.

My mother lives in Japan, too, and on the day of the earthquake, we were in her third floor apartment in Kamiuri Kamadoka-ku. My husband had just left to get things started in his restaurant, which was 30 minutes away.

My kids and I have developed the habit of taking a nap at around 2 p.m. every day. Earthquakes are no longer a big deal to us—we're so used to them. So at March 11, when the earthquake started as I was trying to get the kids to sleep, I thought nothing of it.

Then things started falling in the apartment, and when I looked out the windows, I saw the neighbors panicking and running. A man who had been painting outside the apartment was already lying on the ground and screaming in fear. I picked up my children so we could get out. They were scared and crying.

Trying to leave the apartment with two kids clinging to me was hard. Everything was rocking, it felt like we were trapped in an amusement park ride.

Luckily, my mother arrived. She had been walking home when the quake started. She said she realized the earthquake was strong when she saw people kneeling in the streets and covering their heads.

She didn't stop. She just started running home because she knew we were there. The elevators were not working, she said, so she jumped onto the fire exits to get into the apartment. My mom helped me grab the kids' diapers and milk. At that point, my friend Shana was outside, shouting for us to get out.

We did, and we rode out the earthquake in Kamiuri Park, a park near my mother's apartment. Soon, my husband arrived. It was funny. There was even a guy from hosting at the park, as if nothing had had happened. He didn't know how bad it was—yet.

Aftershocks

I didn't know either, until I saw that the building beside ours had cracked.

Almost immediately after the quake, my friend Ali used FaceTime to call me and check on us. She was my connection to the Philippines for the next days until dust was crystal because our phone lines were acting up.

My husband left again to check on our

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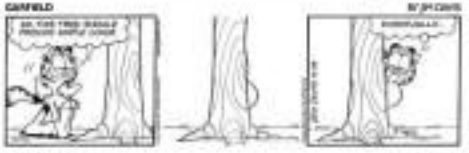

A. LUPIN

PUGAD BAWOY

DICK TRACY

LOVE & MOOTS

BABY BLUES

RIKO MACHINE

SEN

HUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

DUSTIN

TULDOK

SUDOKU

BY TRISCO DYAN

100 EASY TASKS You accomplish many tasks without concrete plans or a schedule today. Personal activities and/or social life will be challenging. Mimosa you are in the mood, but you must be careful not to overindulge. Avoid any temptation to drive while under the influence. Be extra careful with your car today. Don't be a hero! Another "Yes, but be sure to ask" day. Be careful with your finances ahead of you today. Be on the spirit! **Virtuosa** will Gloria Clinton, actress. Gloria Diaz, fashion journalist. Susan Roces, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Be patient with others at work. Backpack Soldier's Full Moon will create tension with your partner. Don't hesitate getting your own way. Lighten up a little.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Rebellious with clumsy and accident-prone tendency to be hasten because of today's full Moon. Keep in mind that the fulfillment of your romantic needs will be within your easy reach.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Don't push issues with friends, parents, brothers or sisters today. If possible, join with them. Today is best at home, and prepare for a delicious dinner.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid arguments about politics, religion or social issues today. Intensify emotional relationships or dealing with publishing and the media. Keep a low profile.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Emotional or financial ups or downs may be in store today. Be careful not to overspend. Pamper yourself with a special treat. Be extra careful with sharp objects. Possible writing or romantic help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Be more patient with partners and relationships today. You or the one you love may be moody. Don't overreact to others' comments. You have no choice!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You like to keep the peace, but you may have to stand firm. This one will surprise you because today the Full Moon could make many unsure of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be patient with romantic partners, and be extra careful with children today. Today's full Moon can stir up problems with partners or loved ones. Yikes!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Domestic harmony will not be easy to achieve today. Therefore, give everyone a wide berth. Be careful with family members. Everyone can feel today's Full Moon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) This is a really excellent time for you to slow down and take it easy. Allow extra time for everything. Don't overexpress others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Be aware of your cash flow and your money management. Somewhere under pressure and irritable or cold. Watch your change. Keep your receipts. Be vigilant towards today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) The only Full Moon during Capricorn in your sign is taking place today. This is bound to encourage excitement and more. Your ruler and zodiac. Give patience and other friends a hand to be profitable.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles and programs go to www.sudoku.com

Solution to previous puzzle

1	9	2	5	6	7	3	4	8
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8	4	7	1	3	2	9	5	6
5	3	8	9	7	1	4	6	2
6	7	1	4	2	3	6	9	5
9	2	4	6	5	8	2	7	1

Concepts Sudoku By Glen Ferrer

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Difficulty Level: ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

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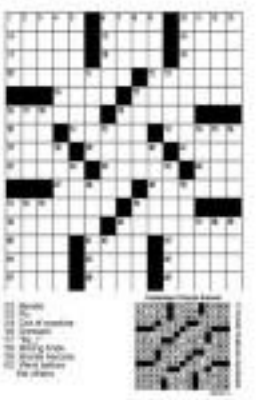


A helping hand

Various celebs, groups and citizens converge on the Internet to help out Japan

By Tobi Yang
Contributor

IT TAKES the worst of times to make netizens' people shine. After the devastation that rocked Japan, many personalities and groups have turned to the Internet and social networking scene to Japan's aid.

Lady Gaga has rallied her "little monsters" and asked them to buy a wristband on her website. The wristband costs US$5, but you also have the option to add an additional donation of up to $100, with all the proceeds going to Japan relief efforts. So far she and her fans have raised US$250,000.

In Japan, an Apple employee wrote a letter to his friend, blogger Kevin Rose, about how Apple stores stepped upon to help families get in touch with loved ones, by giving Internet access to many stranded people, especially since phone and cable lines were affected by the massive quake.

They also provided chargers to people whose devices were running low on juice, as minutes to people running to use Face Time, and info on how to access news to their phones. Meanwhile, their employees and family members who did not have shelter were allowed to sleep in the store, or at a hotel when the company shouldered the cost of lodging.

Telecom companies like SURF have waived fees on all outgoing calls to Japan to help keep communication lines open, and even clothes line set up "Moving energy" centers at the Ozone (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration) office in Pasay to allow family members to call and text their loved ones in Japan.

Zynga, popular for games like FarmVille and CityVille, also contributed to Japanese relief efforts by running over 100 percent of its virtual goods purchase prices. They've also partnered with Save the Children to raise money for their Japan Earthquake Tsunami Children Emergency Fund.

Author Neil Gaiman, who lives near the earthquake site, has started a campaign called "Books for Japan," where he intends to collect new books from all over the world along with a cute letter from the donor, which he plans to distribute to the affected areas once the mailing system has normalized. While it may be creative, his campaign has received a lot of flak for diverting attention to aid, when what he/she/it/them could go to something more large-scale.

Apple's iTunes have set up to receive donations which they will pass on to Red Cross, while other game developers on iOS have pledged their profits from games purchased to be donated to Japan.

Creative ways to help

Indeed, there are plenty of ways to help Japan, and people have certainly come up with creative ideas to get the job done. If the list of choices seems overwhelming, here are more direct ways for you to do something for our neighbors in need:

1. Donate

Donating money in NGOs involved in relief operations in Japan is the easiest and fastest way to send aid. Opt for the well-known organizations like Red Cross. You can check their website, www.redcross.org.ph, for more info. A P1,000 donation made via Groupon Bayanihan (www.buycoupons.com.ph) will also be given to the Red Cross International Relief Fund, except they will match your donation by giving another P100 themselves. You can also check with your mobile provider whether you can donate through text, or your bank to see if they receive donations.

2. Responsible dissemination

If donation is not really your style, another way to help is through passing on information responsibly. Who would forget that mass text message sent around a couple of days ago, warning us to be careful of unclear fallout and acid rain? It's so easy to cause widespread panic and misinformation via Twitter or Facebook, and there are many misinformed who will literally surprise, pass on the wrong info, and confuse others. Before retweeting or reposting, make sure to have the facts, and do your fact-checking via reliable news sources.

Today's deal: Donate P100 to the earthquake victims in Japan and Groupon PH will match your donation. All donations will be given to the Red Cross International Relief Fund for Japan.

DONATE via Buycoupons and have your donation matched by the company, which will then give the donation to Red Cross.

From page F1

house and my roommate. It took him seven and a half hours to get back, when it usually takes just 30 minutes. The traffic was that bad. Everyone was having a hard time trying to get home because the trains weren't working.

There were aftershocks the whole day.

The trains didn't work the next day, either. People started panic buying. If you walked into convenience stores and groceries, you wouldn't find food. There were no trains, no bread.

We had to crawl far to find supermarkets and wholesale suppliers still selling food. We still have some water left but we need more, especially for the kids.

Some friends found shelter in a Philippine state during the quake. They stayed there the whole time. Another Filipino friend said she hid under a sink, crying the whole time. Some friends left their homes in a mad rush, even in their underwear. My mother's friend, who was parking near in a grocery basement, said that their trucks started falling from the shelves. She ran outside.

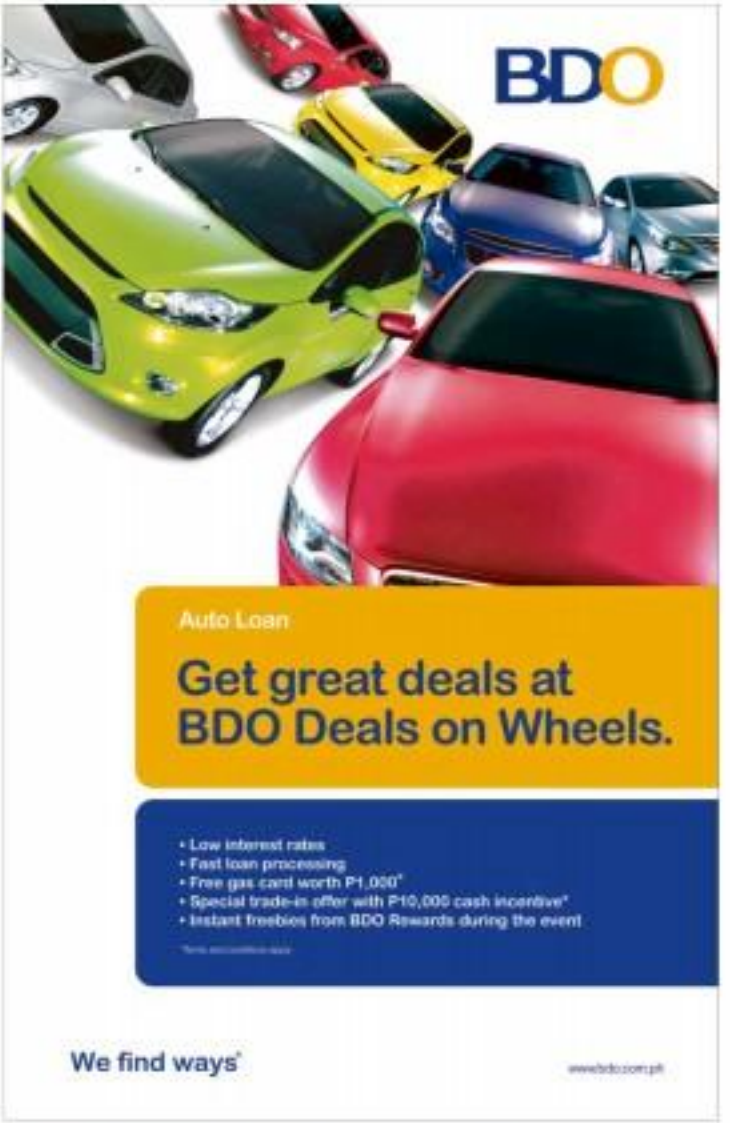
It's been days, but my mother still can't sleep. She says it feels like her world is constantly shaking. Another aftershock has started as I tell you this story.

We've received an outpouring of love online—from friends and relatives who are checking if we're okay. We're okay but still shaken up.

People are still scared and shocked. We're all constantly alert...we don't know what's going to happen next. A lot of Filipinos have bought tickets...they seem to go home.

I'm sure, a part of me wants to go home, but if we do go home, my husband has to stay behind to keep working. I will be constantly worried. If we could all go home together, my mother included, we'd love to go.

But now, we're staying put. We're constantly praying for everyone's safety. We're also trying to conserve water and energy. We're still scared, but my family is alive, we're safe...and we don't owe banks.



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March 21, 23 & 26	SM City Cagayan de Oro
March 21 – April 4	SM City Pampanga
March 21 – April 5	SM City Lucena
	SM City Rosales
March 21 – April 13	SM City Baliwag
	SM City Cebu
	SM City Clark
	SM City Novaliches
March 21 – April 11	SM City Marilao
March 22 – April 5	SM City Batangas
March 22 – April 8	SM City Davao
March 22 – April 9	SM City Bacoor
March 25	SM City San Pablo
March 25 – April 4	SM City Dasmariñas
March 25 – April 7	SM City Novaliches
March 24 – 31	SM City Marikina
March 25 & 30	SM City Bacolod
March 25 & April 4	SM City Naga
March 25 – April 4	SM City Tarlac
March 26 – 31	SM City Iloilo
March 27 & 31	SM City Valenzuela
March 28 & 31	SM City Cdo
March 30 & April 2	SM City Marilao
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Spiking the 'Punch'

In the riotous 'Sucker Punch,' '300' director Zack Snyder unloads a movie loaded with enough fighting and imagery that it becomes an action machine

By Rust S. De Vera

BECAUSE of the to-be-celebrated visual style Zack Snyder brandishes in his movies, it may surprise you to know that Snyder has never actually directed a movie that came to him as an original idea. After helming movies based on graphic novels ("300" and "Watchmen"), an earlier horror flick ("Dawn of the Dead") and even a children's novel ("Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole"), the visual wizard finally gets the chance to let loose with "Sucker Punch," a flashy, sexy steampunk romp-chase of a movie.

Rustan's

For Life

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March 15 to May 1, 2011

Indulge For Life
March 25 to April 3, 2011

Winners For Life
March 15 to May 1, 2011

Rustan's

Printed and distributed by Newspaper Direct

Spiking the 'Punch'

GIRL POWER: roles in this movie

Fempuppets

Attacking sexily-tooled soulless toy has made him the Lenore Moore for the sexually ill. Babydoll (pictured: Amelie actress Emily Browning) reinvents himself in a burlesque show where she mightily, sexually takes on...zombies, samurais, robots, giant bunnies. Plus: Jillian Cornhill and Rodrigo Santoro. Whatever.

But while plot remains low on all steampunk counts, the performances are strong. Especially Carla Gugino (Sucker Punch's Dr. Gorski) and Oscar Isaac (Sucker Punch's Wise Man). Gugino's character is the only one with any depth, and Isaac's character is the only one who seems to be having any fun.

Undaunted by the requirements of adaptation, Snyder rolls out a movie that's compositionally stunning at certain scenes. It's emotionally sweeping during opening flashbacks and the gutsy battle girls. But the gaps are so distracting and unresolved.

But what big stakes with Snyder has. Snyder goes for broke when given the chance to succeed. In "Sucker Punch," we find the girls recovering British sci-fi classic, Firefly, and sexy-ugly sex, lightsaber, knights, dragons and German zombies...yes, German sci-fi. Also zombie-like beggar-schizophrenics.

The movie does has breath-taking, panoramic scenes, intricate montage and mind-blowing sound tracks, all done with a rollicking pace and a general sense of CGI.

While a first-person shooter videogame aesthetic has clearly influenced Snyder here, "Sucker Punch" is, as cinematic Snyder's background as an storyboard artist, a visual medium. Especially "Zombie-ish Nazi" the Role Dyer sees by Sly Cleveland. However, Thankfully a lot of cheesy energy in from "Sucker Punch" as well. This

MONSTER smash

JAMIE Chung as Amber and Vanessa Hudgens as Blondie

CARLA GUGINO as Dr. Vera Gorski

JENNA Malvoso, Rebecca Breeds and Abbie Cornish as Sweet Pea

might also be the single most violent movie featuring female protagonists, and the girls shoot it up and cut it from down with glorious panache and notably sexy battle heels.

Snyder invites a third psychological battle: an intimate with the audience with a meta-textual wink.

While Browning remains a provocative cipher throughout the film, Cornish and Malvoso are from the portrayal of the two central but devoted sisters. The world's true star here, however, is arguably Isaac, who, as the mentor-cum-evil-genius with a hidden agenda, is the only character who seems to have any fun.

John de Lancie, Scott Glenn, Chung Seok-yu Kalinski with the Cecile Corbijn in Richard Dreyfuss, the last time he had a big night out in a fancy gown.

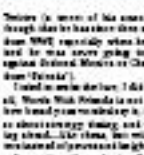
Inappropriate for sexophobic and hellfire sense might have suspected "Sucker Punch" as necessity for "2010" with Dreyfuss, the chief character in all Spielberg films. His co-interviewing project in the dining night before Snyder goes up-up, and Lenny with the upcoming Supermax movie in 2012.

In the meantime, have you heard Jay-Z dropped a new album? Yeah, you probably all Berlin those. He almost like Snyder is trying to "Speak your eyes by throwing all this stuff on screen and stayin. Close for Google, stay for the grenades! Here then is "Sucker Punch," with Zack Snyder in all his evil, mighty glory on his own terms and on our dimes.

Warner Bros.' "Sucker Punch" opens in Metro Manila theaters on March 23.

Obsession is a

By Twin Tang
Core Dozer



O

Social Scrabble

To those who haven't been living by the bayou, Words With Friends is essentially Scrabble, but with a social element... the game is played online against others whom you have on the account as dreamy, especially when they're doing things like playing Scrabble, sometimes against you, or a complete pain and play game among your friends gamers in the room. The game has been around for awhile long enough that John Hayes even added to the new "Scores" screen on Facebook, but it's still a big draw over Twitter and Jason Mraz was hooked enough to invite players via

Twitter to invite of his own, though that let him have three games (one WWF especially when he and he was never going to again Retired Mexico or Chuck Norris).

I used to only do four. I did all, Words With Friends is not how I used you to challenge it, so since everyone's doing and big about...like rhino, but we were scared of pressure to laugh.

It wasn't until not losing 3 games in a row that I was engrossed in a game that I developed a style and, I wasn't to lose, getting

Damn you, auto-c

By Twin Tang
Core Dozer

SMARTPHONES smartphones are sometimes besides even good. In an effort to provide a basic error-proofing experience, most of these mobile phones come with computers have built-in dictionaries that will your rapidly typing degree, correct suggestion you type as you go along.

Sounds like a splendid idea of productive use are the results of automatic autocorrect and typing error, when it ignores wrong, they it is even wrong, resulting in embarrassing and dissident hilarious autocorrect antics.

From sayings, it seemed that my iPhone was possessed by a mischievous genius. The word "work" would be promptly replaced by a more flattering "rockstar." All keyboards seem to employ the Yoda-like habit of randomly inserting replies in Karate-ish, as my phone writes this point. Typing the word "dinner" yields a suggestion of a hospital, as "dinnerdinner."

There are times, on the other hand, when the iPhone would make me sound like a genius. I delight in by commonly-misspelled

ing "in" with "th." I've had to be explain several times that I was actually not a non-homicidal person, and the real "Shaun In Rl?" not "Shaun Th?"

Meanwhile, on the unbearable bl of the smartphone panel, you

How not to get killed inside a cinema

In Latvia, a man was killed over a popcorn dispute while etching 'Black Swan.' Here are rules to follow if you want to stay alive in a movie theater

By Pam Pastor

TRAGEDIES of the cinema are confusing. Some articles claim that a 47-year-old man was shot dead by a 20-year-old man inside a "Black Swan" screening in Latvia for using popcorn as deadly. But some articles claim that he was the 22-year-old shooter who was using the popcorn, and he shot the 47-year-old man for using it as a gun.

Either way the facts are the same...Latvia, Black Swan," are were, and a ban of life that could have been prevented if people knew how to act inside a cinema.

Annoying

In a perfect world, we wouldn't need to write this article. People would know how to behave while watching movies and we can focus more on our favorite pastime of enjoying films in a secondary residence: being annoyed.

But this is not a perfect world.

And in this imperfect world, there are idiots, willful assholes, and inconsiderate mobile phone users who seem to have made it their mission to annoy the hell out of other people in the cinema.

Just a few days ago, at an ad. screened screening of "Red Riding Hood," a group of people sitting at the back row kept talking throughout the film. They only stopped when an usherette and a cinema operator finally shushed them. Then some group of people kept kicking the seats in front of them, and one of the girls in that same group refused to stop texting during the entire movie. Sure, her phone was an silent mode, but her phone's screen was annoyingly incandescent in the pitch-dark cinema.

In a regular screening of "Burlesque" some weeks back, we shushed two loud women who just wouldn't shut up. And here's the funny thing...they got mad at us for complaining about their noise. "Hey can we sit?" they said, and it took all our restraint to not slap the crap out of them on top of their annoyingly shrill face.

In yesterday's very movie we went back and we made just about every annoying movie-going mistake of keeping the film at very silent, we necessary social silence. And a lot of times the talking is genuine, because I just don't hear or believe the whispered. We end up being like parties editors to annoyances just to find out we could see all the cinema with a headache.

We were watching Sucker Punch 3D when we heard a little voice singing. We kept trying to figure out where the sound was coming from and we realized it was the little kid sitting beside us. We looked, I guess, at his and we are heard with the parents also for this the sound in using to entertain him, still. When he wasn't singing, he was kicking our seats. When he wasn't kicking our seats, he was asking his mother when the movie would be over.

Believe, silence mobile phone users, other people aren't just annoying, they're also inconsiderate and have some respect for others. If it means up to us, they would be banned from screening cinema theaters.

But we don't have the kind of powers. So we just must up with this set of rules. Hence, for the love of god, follow them. Because we have going to the cinema, we don't want to resort to playing and we certainly don't want to see an unfortunate headline.

The rules:

DO NOT TALK. Cinema seats are not meeting houses are any of your favorite sitcoms. Keep all your yaps shut as they struggle to find show more in the dark. Seriously how hard is it to make it to the cinema on time? Then pull for the movie...don't you want to see the whole thing?

DO NOT SING. We don't mind if you talk during the movie, but never do we want to hear you sing. Not even in a whisper. You are not Justin Bieber. Why can't you stop talking? Don't like our choice? Read your mind, get comfortable, and stop moaning. Remember, you only paid for one seat. The same is those of you with phones. If you're your business is not to you to text, **DO NOT USE THE PHONE.** We get it, using while watching a movie is fun. We like doing it, too. But it's, texting in the middle of your you, making a telephone call, the annoying. Hyun-Ah and Sandy need to wait, do not need to hear about your ex-boyfriend's best person at the wedding.

DON'T PUT YOUR FEET ON THE SEAT. While we said, some people play games on their phones and their hands and feet get unreachable while watching a movie, they don't use their armrest for their elbows and SANDALS and their feet on the seat in front of them. Think about how much you'd hate it if someone was to do to something to you!

DO NOT BRING THE KIDS. Do have a bathroom issue before the movie starts...then may you don't take your kid to the movie, and then you have to leave during the movie, and then you have to bring him.

DO NOT BE GET A REVIEW. Being your kid dearly to age appropriate movies. Then may they aren't bored to tears and they don't make the rest of the

24/7 Su

By Janice Gamm

CATCH the Specials Do days in the business Ch 10a.m.-7 p.m. daily, at 1 p.m. and "Mich Algarrobo impersonator" on March 26 at 6 p.m. (Greenbridge in Bonifa tel. no. 721-1882 or www.ca.

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Attention: A public relation *Par* more a show 24/7 one at 24/7 Featured Recipe Artwork announced. Wednesday to www.24/7@gmail.com.

13-point word

How Words With Friends has taken over my life

WORDS WITH Friends is like chess, but with letters instead of pieces or knights.

with my words; I was just trying to aim for the premium tiles, especially the double and triple word tiles. I was playing against a random opponent, and just kept creating words.

I was on the first game I was tried, and that was the start of the obsession. I knew I was hooked when an amount of duty I cared greatly from my friends could tear me away from

the game I was playing...and my only contribution to the conversation was my smartphone vowing at how I scored 107 points using a three letter word. It's games so bad that my friends have tried to confiscate my phone from me. Whenever we watch movies, I've half prayed the movie would suck, so I'd have an excuse to play Words With Friends in the dark.

Breakfast would be eaten on lunch as my "I'll play just one word" promise rode up becoming 24, and my "I'll just play the 24 minutes" will shrink would end up becoming one whole day of doing nothing but focus "the wonderous of seven letters.

I have I had made to my most elevated selves, at the emergency room, I found myself vying to create words out of the smith rose of the eye chart (EXPEDITE) and wondering how much points I'd get out of them.

Pegging

For learned new words...lewn, spurgeny, rebate, ug, ne...words I'll never use in everyday conversation. Examples "You've no awareness!", per I've taken these to heart for numerous scoring. I've developed cavaliers, like on a random opponent named Steve, who clicked my game on a 2 X game play using "rotates." I held off from sending him a date invite via chat (yes, you can chat/trash talk with your opponents on WWF), but I did Google him.

No one is exempt from becoming obsessed. I've even discovered closet crazy about the game, too...Carolyn of Edgar, with the exception of one, are all seen about Words With Friends, as I discovered when (post-dinner) Gab Cave Eve's eyes perked up like a puppy when he heard my phone making an alert that it was my turn to play.

Despite my obsession, I find myself reluctant to play with actual people I know, preferring the anonymity of strangers because I'd hate it if my real friends beat me, and I'd have to rename the phrase Words With Friends to Words With Strangers. There's a heavier pressure to perform, especially when your pride is at stake. Still, some of my friends have managed to find me online and I just have to make sure that I win, and unlike in person Scrabble or chess, all this while pretending not to be competitive about the whole thing.

If you are an iOS or Android user, Words With Friends is an app that you absolutely must have on your phone. It's free to download, it's addictive, and if you have the patience in a through a few ads, there is still be at no cost to you because the ad-supported version is free. Once you get hooked (and you will), the ad-free version of the game costs $2.99 on iOS, but you'll find it's worth every penny to your equivalence. So, download now and start playing, and here's hoping we end up playing a friend.

We have a winner!

Last week, we asked you to answer the question "Why do you need wings?"

And this week, we have a winner.

"I need wings to fly & save life specifically in general. Without him, we cannot live this."

Congratulations, @thejamesbritt Smooth Queen. Hope James liked your answer too.

You can pick up your Abigail Jewelry from the Philippine Daily Inquirer office on Thursday, 1 p.m. onwards. For inquiries, call 8924000 local 220. Look for Stella.

orrect

A ball of tame (or shame) for the most gut-busting mobile phone auto-corrections gone wrong

last moments, such errors would cover make it before the word known in his, but when you are in the middle of another task, your smartphone ends up being in the driver's seat and starts posting words in your words.

You know it happens often enough when a website opens up in honor of moment auto-correct messages, in this case aptly named Autocorrections.com...a repository of ill-meaning messages formed by

cheap fingers and an inept dictionary.

Many of the entries submitted are truly gut-busting, like the guy who texted his mother that he would like a side of peas with his meat chicken (he means corn), or the person who bought her dog a hoodoo (hoodoonoo, a book for dogs).

Some have accidentally won our invitations of a lascivious na-

ture, when the intent was innocuous, though this could be the mobile version of a Freudian slip.

While avoiding this seemingly enough, is...love, all the (damn) auto-correct features, the predictive input in most sites does not, pretty intuitive. It also learns frequently used words (my iPhone has memorized everything and has remembers to Filipino), and is aware of a lexicon than a lame. Thus, without auto-correct, what would we be laughing at instead?

Send more cringe mishaps at Abigail Jewelry.

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ger Radar

Give your kids the perfect summer adventure with the 2011 McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop

Calling all munchkins and dudes looking for a fun summer adventure in their city! Registration for the McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop 2011 is now on-going. Parents can now sign-up their kids aged 8-12 years old at participating McDonald's store nationwide. This year over 15,000 kids from all over the country are expected to join.

The McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop, for those of us here in the country, is an annual 5-day summer program specially designed for kids to enjoy fun activities and meet new friends while learning the values of teamwork, discipline and teamwork. During each workshop day, Kiddie Crew members will get to experience real activities like greeting guests, manning the restaurant and drive-thru counters and other on-floor trainings. Kids will also get an opportunity to showcase their talents and creativity through fun art workshops.

Finally, at the end of the workshop, a graduation ceremony will be held in major cities all over the country to recognize and celebrate the achievements of all Kiddie Crew members by inviting the entire family to a big filled with exciting family games and a special guests.

So, what are you waiting for? Give your child the best summer ever and sign them up for the McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop 2011. For more information, visit www.mcdonalds.com.ph.

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The latest losers on the Internet

By Bianca Cuttaud
Correspondent

IT'S HERE: an unusually active week for scene-seeking on the Internet. Aside from the out-pouring of Japan-related tweets, blog entries and videos, two people made big news: Rebecca Black and Alexandra Wallace. They shot from anonymity to unbelievable infamy in a matter of hours. Here's why:

Rebecca Black

"The worst song in recorded history," some people have called it. In case your ears haven't been assaulted yet by this 13-year-old's single entitled "Friday," consider yourself lucky. But then again, have you been living under a rock?

The tune dead-set sings primarily with the aid of Autotune, but that's not even the worst part; it's the lyrics. Her song is basically comprised of several verses that spell out three activities:

1. What she does in the morning

"7 a.m., waking up in the morning/Gotta be fresh, gotta go downstairs/Gotta have my bowl, gotta have cereal. ... Gotta get down to the bus stop, gotta catch my bus/I see my friends."

2. Her indecision about a car-seating plan

"Kickin' in the front seat/Sittin' in the backseat/Gotta make my stand up/Which one/ no I take?"

3. A recitation of the days of the week

"Yesterday was Thursday, Thursday/Today is Friday/Friday/We, we, we, so excited, we, so excited/We gonna have a ball today/Tomorrow is Saturday/And Sunday comes afterwards."

There are plenty of other precious moments in the video...such as the two girls in pink dresses and braces dancing awkwardly on Black's side, other look-like friends from middle school who hogged their way in.

The video is by the Ark Music factory, a label that seeks out 13- to 17-year-old teenage girls and flies them to LA to record their singles and make an accompanying video. The record label's subsite is filled with other cringe-worthy gems, like Kayo Rosenthal, a

An Autotune-happy teen and a racist UCLA student headline a bizarre week online

THE CULPRIT Political Science junior Alexandra Wallace, on aspiring exotic

Britney Spears wannabe, and GJ Sury, a 12-year-old who looks like Little Orphan Annie and sings about being a famous pop star.

The worst thing about all this? Rebecca Black doesn't seem to realize that her infamy is a negative thing, said—deliriously re-livers disparaging messages from other celebrities about her song ("I can die happy," she squealed after Joe Jonas gave her a backhanded compliment on Twitter). People have compared "Friday" to "Your I Met Your Mother's" Robin Sparkles' single, "Let's Go To The Mall." Except the latter one is spoof, and Rebecca Black is dead serious.

Alexandra Wallace

The epitome of an all-American girl—blonde, brown and wide-eyed—Alexandra Wallace earned the ire of millions of Asians around the world after she posted a YouTube video titled "Asians in the library." In the video entry which was removed soon after the transcript hit, Japan, she complained about Asians and the way they used cell phones in the UCLA library.

THE CONTROVERSIAL video that sparked accusations of racism in UCLA

"If you're going to come to UCLA, then use American manners," she said pointedly. "In America, we do not talk on our cell phones in the library! I swear, every five minutes I will be...OK, not five minutes, say like, 15 minutes—I'll be like deep into my studying, into my political science theories and arguments and all that stuff, getting it all down, like typing away furiously, blah blah blah... and then all of a sudden, when I'm about to like, reach my epiphany, now I have from somewhere, OMG! Ching chong ling ling ling ling! Ohh!"

The last "Asian" phrase was mockingly spoken by Wallace in a deep, masculine monotoning voice. She added, "So being the polite non-American girl that my mommy raised me to be, I kind of just gave him, 'It's the library, like we're trying to study (Sunday)' And then it's the same thing five minutes later, but it's somebody else, you know? I swear they're going through their whole families, just thinking on everybody from the funniest thing.

"Like okay I know that sounds horrible, like I feel bad for all people affected by the tsunami, but if you're going to sell your address book, like you might as well go outside because it sounded like a wrong, you might really freak out in the library when everybody's quiet. Like, you seriously need to go outside if you're going to do that."

Before turning about the scene in the library, she also requested her anonymity as the families that visited the students in the dorms: "All the Asian people that live in all the apartments around me? Their moms and their brothers and their sisters and their grandmas and their grandpas and their cousins and everybody that they know that they brought along from Asia with them cannot leave on the weekends to do their laundry, buy their groceries and cook their food for the week," she said.

"It's seriously without fail; you will always see old Asian people running around this apartment complex every weekend. That's when they do...they don't wash their kids to food for themselves."

Wallace has since apologized to the Asian community and to UCLA after Chancellor Gene Block expressed his disappointment and embarrassment regarding the matter, but she also faces death threats and worldwide condemnation on the Internet. She has sought protection from campus security regarding the matter.

E-mail the author at biancacuttaud@yahoo.com or visit www.twitter.com/thingsbianca.

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rita P. Avila

SATURDAY Special

Bruno Mars finally finds his way 'home'

By Rita P. Avila

EVEN GOOD guys make mistakes. Last September, when Filipino Bruno Mars aka Peter Gene Hernandez (his Pinoy mother, Bernadette, emigrated to Hawaii as a child) was released to Cee Lo for crossover promotions, it looked like this upward career trajectory of pop smarts knew how Wonder would take a sudden detour southward.

Repercussions

But, you can't put a good man down—at least, not for long, especially if he's as talented and self-effacing as Mars. There was no excuse for what he did. So, upon realizing the potentially devastating repercussions of his "moment of weakness," the singer immediately owned up to his unapologetic behavior and acknowledged that what he did was "foolish"—after all, he said, he had never used drugs in the past. (It comes to plotting guilty, the charge against Mars will be stricken out of his record if he stays out of trouble for a year.)

A few weeks after Mars' arrest, it was time for Diaspo to find replacements because, when the Billboard chart was released, it boasted an outstanding four by Fil-Ams never before accomplished on the Hot 100 chart:

At No. 1 was Mars' "Just The Way You Are," which marches on to a four-week run at the top. And, in second place was the groove-heavy single, "Like I Do," by Bay Area Movement, an electro hip quartet made up of Kevin Nishimura (of Japanese-Chinese descent), James Roh and Jae Ocyong (Korean), and another Fil-Am, DJ Pittman Coquia!

At last month's Grammy Awards, there were a good number of upsets, but nobody was surprised when Mars won the Best Male Pop Vocal Performance prize for "Just The Way You Are." His competition in the category were a veritable Who's Who in pop music: Michael Bublé ("Haven't Met You Yet"), Adam Lambert ("Whataya Want From Me?"), John Mayer ("Half of My Heart") and Michael Jackson ("This Is It").

Mars' songs have been constant fixtures on our iPod's playlist long before the into-xicable exudes of his full-length debut album, "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," started invading the charts.

Who can resist the knockout hooks of "Nothing On You" (with B.o.B), "Billionaire" (with Travie McCoy) and "Grenade"? Not us, that's for sure! In fact, we were pleasantly surprised when we learned that Bruno also contests one of our favorite tunes of the season: Cee Lo Green and Gwyneth Paltrow's "Forget You"

Sense of humor

Mars' feel-good musical personality unfailingly swallowable voice, off-kilter sense of humor, as well as the boon-worthy melodies he concocts with his collaborators, are the engines that keep the "Doo-Wops" locomotive running—his oldest running at full speed.

It's hard to resist the infectious vibe of "Just The Way You Are," the radio-friendly groove of "Grenade" and the Motown-sounding "Marry You," the funky punk-rock licks of "Runaway Baby," the reggae-fied beats of "The Lazy Song," the sexy jam of "Count On Me," which displays the 25-year-old performer's Michael Jackson-like vocal affectations.

The singer-songwriter is dialing in the fondness for yesteryear in "Liquor Store Blues" (his duet with Damian Marley) and collaboration with Cee Lo Green and B.o.B. in "The Other Side," a more urgent, sped-up hybrid of Chris Isaak's "Wicked Game."

Bruno Mars doesn't need the

MARQUEE Performs at Wanderbar Hotel and On Big Show next month.

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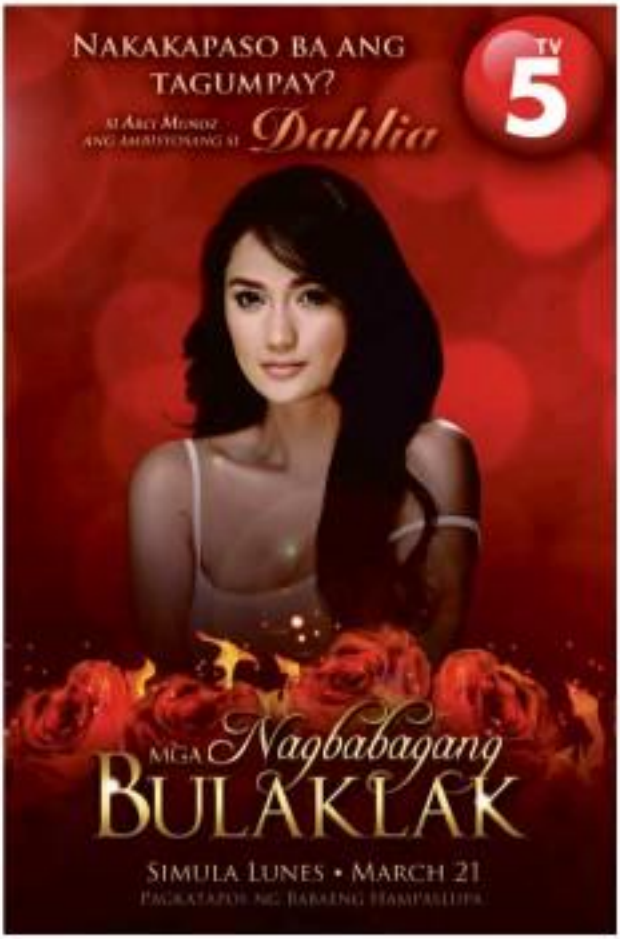

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Ramona Diaz shares updates on her docus

LOS ANGELES—Ramona Diaz is a driven filmmaker. Even before she donned her much-awaited diary inventory, "The Learning," she had already announced a new project. She will direct a film adaptation of Nadine Gordimer's bestselling book "Pacific Rims: Dreamers Ballet" in Flip-Flops and the Philippines' Dynasty Love affair with Shakespeare."

Of course, Ramona has that other much-anticipated docu, "Don't Stop Believin': Everyman's Journey." "I'm deep into editing that film about Journey and its Filipino frontman, Arnel Pineda," Ramona told us recently via e-mail. "We hope to be done by the end of the year. And, I've just started developing Pacific Rims."

But, we're especially glad that Ramona, whose credits include the award-winning "Imelda" and "Spin to Win," has finally finished "The Learning," the film follows four HIV-ignina who were recruited to teach in inner-city schools in Baltimore, Maryland. She shot the women in their respective hometowns in the Philippines.

Here and raised in the Philippines, Ramona moved to the US when she was 16. Excerpts of our email interview:

How was the screening of "The Learning" at the San Francisco International Asian American Film festival?

The screening went well and was well-attended, considering there was no press because of its "special screening" status.

As I watched it, I felt that I had made the film that I set out to make—a broadly honest portrait of life in America, which isn't always pleasant. "The Learning" is my homage to the lingering legacies, the OFWs who left all over the world. The film will be broadcast on "POV" on PBS in the fall. I'm hoping that 50 Americans in the country will tune in.

What were among the interesting questions or comments during the Q&A that followed?

What surprised me most were all the questions, but the reaction during the screening. The audience laughed so much—in a good way, in all the right places. One of the best comments I received after the screening was, "You made us cry and laugh, and sometimes, you made us laugh and cry at the same time"—and the film does that. It's a roller-coaster ride.

Teachers

How the four teachers were it?

Yes, I made sure to show the film to them before screening it publicly. They were very moved and laughed at everything, though it may have been mixed with nervous laughter. It's always a strange thing to see yourself on the big screen.

Of the estimated 600 Filipino teachers originally hired to work in Baltimore, how many are still there?

I'm not sure of the exact figure, but the attrition rate has been very low. The last that most of them are still in the city speaks to the success of the program. The Filipino teachers are treasured by the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS).

What's the latest on "Don't Stop Believin': Everyman's Journey?"

We wrapped up production last September as the band went back into the studio to finish their album, "Eclipse," which comes out May 3. We've also started a crowd-funding campaign, which is the hottest and biggest movement in independent film financing these days—going to the fans for financial support. We've been very successful so far, and we're hoping to raise enough money to finish the film. If you log on to indiegogo.com and look up "Everyman's Journey," you'll find the details. Every donation is matched to perks, so someone can give as low as $10 or as high as $10,000. Every little bit helps, of course—and, to top it all, it's tax deductible!

What can you tell us about the full-length docu version of Bartholomew's "Pacific Rims?"

Rade and I are collaborating to adapt his book into a film. The docu-feature is a lark as the Filipino national character through the prism of basketball. We hope to be in the Philippines sometime this year to start shooting a fundraising trailer. I'm still searching for an executive producer. Do you know anyone who is into Pinoy hoops?

E-mail rsmpadez_INQ@yahoo.com

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Roberto V. Nagrales

EMAZ (LEFT). Ramona anticipates documentary about Arnel Pineda and Journey

The time for the famed, of independent filmmaking, etc.) to raise money to finish the films. If you log on to indiegogo.com and look up "Everyman's Journey," you'll find the details. Every donation is matched to perks, so someone can give as low as $10 or as high as $10,000. Every little bit helps, of course—and, to top it all, it's tax deductible!

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Most spiritually enlightening films ever made

By Nestor U. Torre

SHOT UP the new films produced and drawn from days are of the (mostly) cynical and even nihilistic sort—so, what's a movie itself look like to those who need and positive values to do? Which such movie inspiring old movies, that's what, like the films cited by the Vatican on the 100th anniversary of cinema, as some of the most spiritually enlightening films ever made. Some startling examples:

"A Man For All Seasons," on the last seven years of Thomas More, thirty-fifth chancellor, who met a martyr's death, rather than compromise his conscience during a period of religious turmoil in England.

Lost souls

"La Strada" is Federico Fellini's somber picture of lost souls—Anthony Quinn as a circus strongman and Giulietta Masina as the crazy waif who struggles to keep his spirit from being crushed by the brute she serves.

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE." Seasonal favorite about a good man facing financial ruin.

"The Gospel According to St. Matthew," directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini, succeeds in placing the viewer within the Gospel events, avoiding the artificiality and melodramatics so common of most biblical movie epics.

"The Mission" powerfully and perceptively confronts a moral dilemma: Jesuit Governor Jeremy Irons and mercenary Robert De Niro who leads the Indians against colonial army.

"An Revoir Les Enfants." When the Germans discover that a priest has hidden three Jewish boys in a catholic boys' school, he and the boys are arrested and deported to concentration camps.

Stolen bicycle

"The Bicycle Thief." A simple yet compelling study in desperation as a worker must find his stolen bicycle or lose his new job.

"The Burmese Harp." Badly wounded in Burma at the end of World War II, a Japanese soldier is moved back to health by a Buddhist monk, then devotes himself to searching for the remains of dead soldiers to give them a decent burial.

"Decalogue," produced by Polish television, is a series of 10 hour-long programs that explores the contemporary meaning of the 10 Commandments as seen in the lives of residents of an apartment complex.

"Kundun" is a majestic portrait of Buddhism's great political and spiritual leader that focuses on his use of non-violence and hunger strikes to bring together the diverse peoples of India and unify them as a nation.

Guardian angel

"It's A Wonderful Life." A seasonal favorite about the joys and trials of a good man who, facing financial ruin, contemplates suicide until his guardian angel shows him how meaningful his life has been to those around him.

"Schindler's List." A moving account of an opportunistic German businessman who risks his life to save the Jews working for him.

"Wild Strawberries." An old scholar regrets his failures and disappointments in his pursuit of success, friendship—but then shows them to achieve a liberating sense of peace and "Modern Times." Charlie Chaplin in sight of labor of monotonous machine

THIS MOVIE IS NOT YET RATED BY THE MTRCB
BRADLEY COOPER
ROBERT DE NIRO
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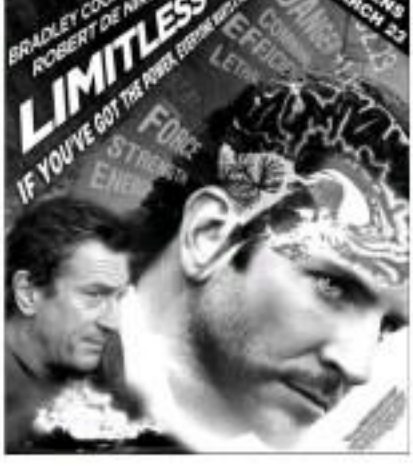
IF YOU'VE GOT THE POWER, EVERYONE BECOME
OPENS MARCH 23



NOW SHOWING

Like fish out of water

By Rito P. Asilo

NOT AGAIN. Jonathan Liebesman's "Battle: Los Angeles" lost cracks the beginning of Doomsday from 2012 (sorry, Roland Emmerich) to Aug. 12, 2013, which is only five months away—this time, with gun-crazy aliens who want to reclaim earth's water as loot, by bursting it through the storage system of our major cities. Damn. The many screentrain' machines and high-tech gadgetry couldn't distract how polluted our water is!

When you see someone falling off the coast of Tokyo, you relax in the cinematic timing of Liebesman's sci-fi flick—as if our poor Asian neighbors didn't already have enough problems with massive earthquakes, 30-foot tidal waves and nuclear radiation! So a Marine asks in disbelief, "Sharks—that's not possible, right?" Well, Hollywood isn't the Land of Make Believe for nothing!

In Sgt. Michael Nantz, Aaron Eckhart wears his battle-scarred soul on his sleeve. He must help platoon commander, Lt. William Monsoor (Ramon Rodriguez), and Spl. Elena Santos (Michelle Rodriguez) lead scores of attitude-heavy US Marines to rescue civilians from a zombie stadium—and they only have three hours to accomplish their mission before the Air Force bombs the area to smithereens!

Abrasive

But...Nantz's heroic altruism doesn't go unappreciated. His subordinates don't trust him, because he allegedly led his men to busy to their deaths...until he straightens out his chaotic-loving destroyer and launches into a soul-stirring soliloquy about how their mindless deaths continue to abound for every waking hour.

Eckhart, who's like fish out of water in this cold and illogical movie, makes the aforementioned scene resonate, by using all the Utopic gravitas he can muster. Yet the first—and only—time, you sense some real emotion seeking through the senseless and overwhelming chaos: Now, if they could only have edited out the cringe-inducing schmaltz of having Eckhart mouth off all Dr. Seuss' soldiers' social manifesto...

ECKHART: Real-acting soliloquy

Also, Eckhart's acting ability isn't enough to fill his actioner's hard and shallow sensibility. Long before he and his team find out how to even up the score against their barely alien adversaries, you may curse if they ever get out of this inane alive!

Bruno Mars...

From page B1

"wrinkle-roaring" ability of modern mythology to spice up his melodies, but the different genres (rock, reggae, soul, pop, hip-hop, etc.) he introduces into their arrangements conspicuously enhance their diverse musical flavors—something he does in Cebu. (April 7, Waterfront Hotel) and Manila (April 8, Araneta Coliseum). I can't wait to get a taste of where their mind finally finds his way "home"!

Most spiritually...

From page B1

canvases the unreliability of isolation tailored society.

"Student Bolden." A Russian production about a 15th-century monk who perseveres in painting icons despite the civil disruptions and cruel removal of his times.

Bad service

ANDRONI went to the LTO to renew his driver's license. While waiting for his turn, he saw the man behind the counter giving him dagger looks. After some time, the man called out his name harshly, and rudely ordered, "Hoy, you, come here!"

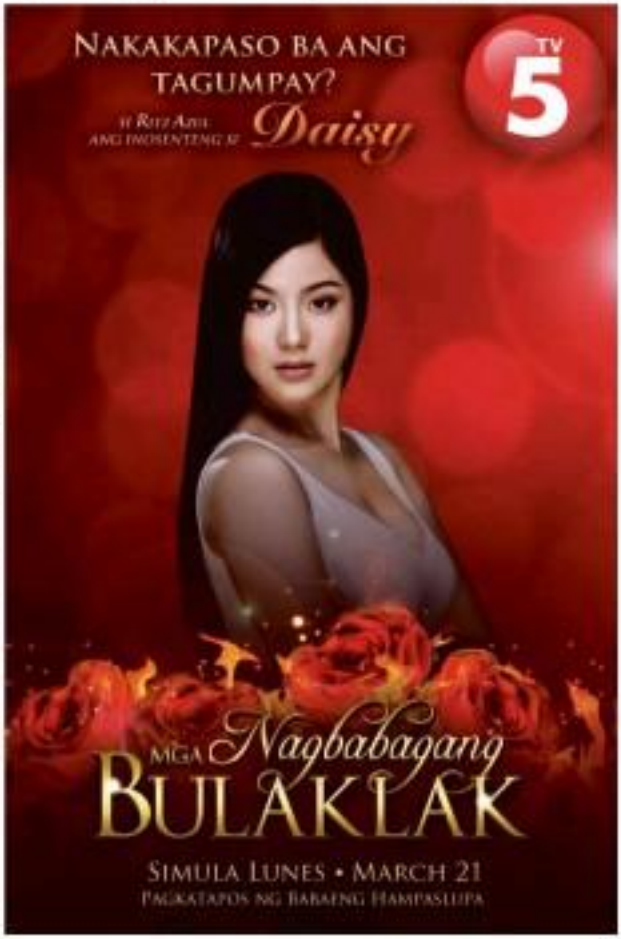
Position

The guy's disrespectful behavior upset my friend. So, he told him, "We are a civil servant meant to serve the people who are paying for your salary. You need to review the civil service code and understand your position. You treat people badly. Every citizen has to be treated with respect."

The supervisor heard my friend's lecturing voice as he was scolding the civil servant and immediately apologized for his staff's offender behavior. Ironically, the guy himself didn't offer any apology!

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bernardo



Workshops at Spotlight

ADVANCE AND SEMI... Proud of their gifted students...

THIS SUMMER, nurture your kids' creativity through music and dance at Spotlight Artists Center's summer workshops in Musical Theater (April 11 to May 23—15 sessions).

Robert Seña and Toby Alvarez are proud of their gifted students. They include Kathryn Bernardo of "Bikoy Clara," Mayumi Morales, and Warren Tiaga and Sheena Tan-Ho, who are currently performing in "The Lion King" in Singapore.

For Spotlight's other workshops, call 894-9000 or visit www.spotlightartists-center.com.

'Shakespeare in Hollywood' opens April 1

Joanne Bernardo directs Ken Ludwig's "Shakespeare in Hollywood," Repertory Philippines' latest offering, set to open with a romantic twist on April 1 at Onstage Greenbelt 1.

The play's set in 1930s Hollywood and is about the making of the film version of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"—told, served with a twist!

Call 571-6926 or 891-6999.

DJ Mo at T.G.I. Friday's

T.G.I. Friday's branch-es are serving up "Buttercream Mojitos" from 4 p.m. onwards, and there are beer cocktail pails to go with your drinks.

The restaurant is giving out 11 iPads until March 31, and Dj Mo, its new celebrity endorser, is giving out complimentary drinks. Visit www.tgifridays.com.ph or www.facebook.com/newhorefridays.

Hannah Marbella

Silver-year-old artist Hannah Marbella's works are being presented until March 26 at SM Mall of Asia before they travel to Shanghai, China, in April.

Nick's eco-friendly episodes

Nickelodeon will be counting down to Earth Hour with eco-friendly episodes in support of the annual global "light-out" movement on March 26. Environment-themed episodes will be telecast on favorite shows like "SpongeBob SquarePants" and "Dora the Explorer."

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1. RED RIDING HOOD 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:15
2. BATTLE: LOS ANGELES 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35
3. MARS NEEDS MOMS in 3D 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05
4. RANGO 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30

SHANG CINEPLEX

1. MARS NEEDS MOMS (3D)
2. RED RIDING HOOD (3D)
3. RANGO
4. BATTLE: LOS ANGELES

Women of Allure Photo Exhibit (Grand Atrium, Level 1 March 14 - 31)

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TriNoma

Too . . . Batanes lives up to expectations

From page H4

Japanese cable network, but leave him alone. The news about the unfortunate events that struck Japan. Although Hi-8 but hindi naman pixelated. It needs perfected in the installers, not a single heritage of the dead has been shown to the public.

"This is coated being aware of our brutal and media people don't have fingers be human dignity. Gruesome footage of accidents, raising and other bloody animal scenes to be an integral part of local news."

Worth watching

Irish Oblea, of Box empower: "The census addict of UMA News TV (formerly channel 111 and 800-mHz)? (channel 41) to free TV to most attractive. Interesting genera that are worth watching include Wowie Mowie's "Bawal ang Pasaway" on channel 11 and "Tayong Mga Pasaway" on channel 41.

I've searched two of "Tayong Mo's" episodes and found its basis' discussions on food and homosexuality (what the dive. And, they didn't rely on scripted spontaneous!"

E-mail: [redacted]
@yahoo.com

LET'S GIVE way to Rhonda S. Pamilar, our guest writer this week.

I'm not a photography buff, but I recently took Mandy Navasero's three-night Batanes photo safari.

For the diligent readers, she couldn't resist giving us type "It's the limits that make the picture," she said. She meant not to shoot them and wrote quite unfaithfully.

Batanes lived up to our expectations, with its rugged, windswept landscape, and stunning views of rolling hill-tops dropping dramatically down to the sea and heaving toward the shore.

Our final day was spent in Sabtang, where we saw the Chinese-protected stone houses.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

PANGASI (right, standing, with three tall joins and Dodjo Dagoon, Xiuan and Alfredo Figueroa, Aida Dy, Helen Pilapil and Nanita Dagoon.

At Sabtang, while waiting for the lobster boat to take us across, we found stories in abundance in the Sabtang Elementary School hall. I found the experience rewarding.

We returned to Manila the following day with a lot of precious memories.

***

Join the Batanes Photo Safari on April 9-12 and 19-24 or May 8-9 and 13-16. Visit mandy-navasero.blogspot.com or call 0906 3397

Unprepossessing animated feature is a charmer

By Nestor U. Torre

REALLY MOVIE should you watch this week? At first blush, "Rango" would appear to be a rather interesting choice. Sure, it unfolds the vocal performances of Johnny Depp as the title character, a scaly chameleon with an identity crisis, but that doesn't sound like such a big, bright reason.

But, the other titles on view weren't all that enticing, either, so we took a chance on "Rango."

Well, we're sure glad we did, because the unprepossessing animated feature turned out to be a charmer. The first fun factor for us emerging in figuring out where the big-headed Rango with the goofy eyes and gaunt neck originated at all.

He looked really familiar, but we couldn't figure it out—until he took a "profile" pose, and we realized that he looked a lot like...Larry King!

Diverting touches

That was an unexpectedly thrill discovery, and other diverting touches sustained our interest in the movie, which first looked not-that-promising. It initially accommodated us Rango's solitary experiences in a desert

RANGO'S KIND. Unexpectedly droll discovery.

in the wild, wild west.

Happily many other idiosyncratic characters bolstered the film's comic story about how "hero" Rango became a winner by leading a motley fight against the huge, powerful enemy that had stolen its entire water supply.

Aside from the events detailed in the movie, the visual style the production employed was uniquely captivating, and eminently movable.

At times, the images looked a lot like other animated productions' striking visualizations, but it soon became clear that the production was striking its own, original path in terms of animation style and characterization.

On point of inspiration and derivation, we saw a link to the early "spaghetti westerns" of Clint Eastwood. —And, indeed, our hunch was proven right when, toward the end of the movie, a "Clint Blue" figure appeared.

Creativity

Beyond seminal influences, however, "Rango" is delightfully viewable due to its own inventive range and depth. Sure, it's "only" an animated feature, but the amount and breadth of imagination and creativity it contains are impressive on their own terms.

"Rango" shows that animation techniques have grown developed so much as to transform that they are now capable of visualizing and studying practically anything a filmmakers' performed imagination can conjure up. Fire, rain, water, mud, skin, fabric, fur, feather, oil—name it and today's animation wizards can vividly re-create the silver screen, for viewers to delight in and get moved by.

Best of all, "Rango" combines all of these state-of-the-art techniques to achieve an idiosyncratic kind of visual artistry that helps make it a unique viewing proposition. Unlike some other animated features that maybe interpreted according to identifiable and even "familiar" styles, "Rango" has created its own way of seeing.

PANS DAY

Too much, too soon for Aljur Abrenica?

By Andy Bax

IS THE early exit of GMA TV "Machete" Final prime time TV a case of "too much, too soon" for young lead actor, Aljur Abrenica? Account executive Alicia Ong is asking, because he was surprised to learn that the show already ended its run this week. "Why so soon?" Wasn't the show saving? It seems that its promotional teasers and Abrenica's physical preparation for the role was longer than the actual itself.

"Obviously, something more than Aljur's physique, as well as the inclusion of his former screen partner, Rita Bernal, to the series' final episodes is required to make a successful TV show. Perhaps viewers are learning to look

ABRENICA. Are viewers learning to look beyond actors' physical attributes?

beyond actors' physical attributes?

Other notes

Lawrence Arellas, concerned citizen: "I've been enjoying in to foreign news channels since the fantastic hit Japan. I am impressed with how NHK, a

YOU-H

Ayala Malls

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: MARS NEEDS MOMS (3D)
2: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
3: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
4: WHO'S THAT GIRL
5: RANGO
6: RED RIDING HOOD
7: THE EAGLE

GREENBELT 1
1: RED RIDING HOOD
2: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES

GREENBELT 2
1: RED RIDING HOOD
2: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
3: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
4: MARS NEEDS MOMS (3D)
5: RANGO

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: RED RIDING HOOD
2: BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
3: MARS NEEDS MOMS (3D)
4: RANGO
5: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
2: MARS NEEDS MOMS
3: RED RIDING HOOD
4: TRUE GRIT

MARQUEE
1: RED RIDING HOOD
2: MARS NEEDS MOMS (3D)
3: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
4: TRUE GRIT

MARKET! MARKET!
1: MARS NEEDS MOMS
2: RED RIDING HOOD
3: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES
4: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5: TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6: RANGO
7: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

TRINOMA
1: WHO'S THAT GIRL
2: THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
3: WORLD INVASION BATTLE: LOS ANGELES (3D)
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5: RANGO
6: THE EAGLE
7: RED RIDING HOOD

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